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State Comptroller won't probe Barak over Tze'elim-2

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR and LIAT COLLINS

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat yesterday announced that she has decided not to look into accusations of controversial behavior by then-chief of staff Ehud Barak during the 1992 Tze'elim-2 training accident.

Her announcement evoked conflicting reactions from the military and political establishments.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi suggested that Barak, who is now Labor Party leader, call on the government to establish a commission of inquiry "to decide whose version is right." He was speaking after Ben-Porat told the

Knesset's State Control Committee that she would not look into the accusations since she did not have the legal tools with which to check them.

Barak: I was vindicated, Page 3

Ben-Porat also pointed out that the accusations, voiced by parents of the wounded who are represented by the Movement for Quality Government, came only two and a half years after the accident.

"There are contradictions with the ver-

sions given after 2-1/2 years. Shortly after the accident, the wounded told the Military Police that the evacuation had been wonderful and quick," Ben-Porat stated. "I do not have the tools [with which to verify the facts]. I am not a court of law."

Aluf (Res.) Yisrael Tal, the prime minister's security adviser, came out strongly against the proposal for a judicial commission. He said the nation has to accept the testimony of its senior generals and that there is no place for further investigation of the Tze'elim-2 accident.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Shahak, Maj.-Gen. Amir Levine and Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy were in the field when the tragedy occurred and

they unequivocally deny the accusation that then-chief of general staff Barak left the scene of the accident before the wounded were treated and before the evacuation helicopters arrived," Tal said in a rare interview on Israel Radio.

"I think this sort of denial from three senior officers - authentic eyewitness testimony and not a second-hand account - should settle this sort of argument once and for all," Tal said. "This is clear and authentic evidence... and there is no room for further inquiries. If Israeli society does not believe its senior officers, it had better do some soul-searching."

The accusations of a "whitewash" surfaced in the Hebrew daily, *Yedio-*

Aharonot in 1995. The paper said that during the accident - in which a missile launched accidentally killed five members of the elite Sayeret Matkal reconnaissance unit and wounded six - Barak failed to attend to the wounded and left the scene before their evacuation. According to one accusation, Barak could have saved the life of one of the men if he had taken him in his helicopter. Others charged that Barak did not have an encouraging word for the victims.

Barak has denied he fled the scene, and said he was dealing with matters relating to his position as chief of staff and therefore did not approach the wounded. He had personally appealed to Ben-Porat to investigate the accusations.

The Likud issued a statement saying: "The cloud of uncertainty concerning the question of Barak's involvement in the Tze'elim-2 disaster will continue to hover over his head. The State comptroller did not respond to Barak's request to clarify the matter, and determined that there is conflicting evidence. The fog concerning Barak has not been removed."

Labor whip Ra'anan Cohen described the State comptroller's decision as "decisively and unambivalently clearing Barak's name," and called on Justice Minister Hanegbi to apologize for his speech two weeks ago claiming Barak had abandoned wounded men.

See BARAK, Page 2



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is joined by Foreign Minister David Levy in toasting (from left) Science Minister Michael Elitzur, Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom and Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, following Knesset approval of their appointments.

Mordechai, Shaath meet

Agreement reached on Gaza airport, seaport

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Israeli and Palestinian officials, with US and Egyptian officials looking on, came to a tentative agreement late last night on expediting airport operations at Dahaniya in the Gaza Strip, and on further construction of the Gaza seaport.

Differences were also resolved regarding the establishment of "safe passage" between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, according to a communiqué issued by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Mordechai and Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil Shaath met under an American-



Yitzhak Mordechai (Israel Sun)



Nabil Shaath (Israel Sun)

tailored cloak of secrecy that was lifted first by the Palestinians and then by the Israelis. The venue was Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny's Herzliya Pithah residence, with US Ambassador Martin Indyk an active participant. Foreign Minister David Levy conferred with Mordechai shortly before the meeting and briefed him on the current negotiating strategy and objectives.

At the NATO summit in Madrid,

US President Bill Clinton said he was very concerned about the deadlock in the Middle East peace process and was working on new ideas jump-start it. "It is obvious that we're going to have to see some new specific actions taken in order to get this thing going again," Clinton told a news conference. "I'm very concerned about what's happening in the peace process."

See MORDECHAI, Page 2

Angry Sharon cuts short meeting with Netanyahu

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

National Infrastructures Minister Ariel Sharon stormed out of a meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday after just three minutes and refused to listen to the prime minister's explanation of how Ya'acov Ne'eman, at the last moment, got the finance portfolio Sharon had been promised.

Sharon is fuming over the way he was pushed out of the job. At the same time, the "kitchen cabinet" which he had wanted to join was abolished.

On Monday, Sharon cancelled the meeting he had scheduled with Netanyahu, and for the past two days the prime minister's aides have been trying in vain to get hold of him. Finally, a meeting was arranged for noon yesterday.

But when Sharon arrived and saw all the television cameras and

microphones, he realized he was meant to play an "extra" in the

22 MKs absent from vote, Page 2

prime minister's "business as usual" show, and decided he was not taking part in the charade, his aides said.

Sharon refused to let Netanyahu explain the Ne'eman appointment and when the prime minister moved to hand him a political survey on security and foreign affairs, Sharon left the room.

He told waiting journalists he had no complaints against the prime minister, and when asked about their relationship described it as "perfectly correct." The prime minister, when asked if any ten-

sion existed between himself and Sharon, replied, "We'll continue to work together in cooperation and mutual agreement."

The prime minister's bureau described the meeting as "security and politically oriented." No further meeting was scheduled.

Later, in a Channel 2 interview, Netanyahu would not elaborate on his talk with Sharon. "It was a private conversation. I don't want to give details. Sharon makes a special contribution to the government. He contributes his experience and special strategic thinking. I hope we can continue to benefit from it."

He denied that he had withdrawn the offer of the finance portfolio to Sharon because Foreign Minister David Levy and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai had pressured him to do so. He insisted he had "never intended it to be Sharon's" and had only offered the Treasury

top post to Sharon when Ne'eman refused it. When Ne'eman then changed his mind the night before the appointment was to be announced, Netanyahu said he felt a moral obligation to give him the job.

Likud sources feel Sharon may now spearhead the opposition to Netanyahu within the government. Netanyahu also told Channel 2 that he had made no promises to Geshar on social issues that would cost \$2 billion.

"The budgets you are talking about never existed. This is nonsense. There is no obligation to Geshar," he said.

Two border policemen injured by bomb near Nablus

by MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

A bomb exploded near a Border Police jeep accompanying a busload of yeshiva students from the Od Yosef Chai yeshiva in Joseph's Tomb at the northern exit of Nablus last night. According to initial reports, the bomb exploded at the Beit Dejan junction.

Two border policemen were lightly wounded and treated at the site.

Both the jeep and the bus were heavily damaged. IDF troops were searching the area.

Eli Rosenfeld, director of the Od Yosef Chai yeshiva, said the bomb was lying on the road.

"There were 40 yeshiva students in the bus," he

said. Rosenfeld demanded that the IDF vary the hour when the bus transports the students out of Joseph's Tomb.

"Every night at 10 the bus picks up the students. Anyone can follow the routine and act accordingly," he said.

Also last night, shots were fired towards Beit Hadassah in Hebron, with two bullets going into the building, settlers reported. No one was hurt, but the outraged Hebron Jewish community demanded that the IDF immediately pursue those responsible.

See SHOTS, Page 2

Mike Tyson fined \$3 million and banned for biting incident

LAS VEGAS (Renter) - Mike Tyson, once boxing's most feared fighter, was banned from the sport yesterday and fined \$3

million for biting opponent Evander Holyfield's ears during a bout last month that shocked fans around the world.

The former heavyweight champion, whose June 28 bid to reclaim his title ended in disgrace, was not present when the five-member Nevada State Athletic Commission voted unanimously to impose the maximum punishment and

revoke his license to box, effectively banning him from boxing in the US.

Tyson, who once dominated the sport, can apply for reinstatement in one year but if his application for a new license is denied he must wait another year to try again.

The revocation could constitute a lifetime ban. Full report, Page 14

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Forget about ladies first.

The Transport Ministry intends to initiate separate seating on some bus lines in Bnei Brak and Jerusalem, with men getting on at the front door and women entering through the back.

The system was recommended by a special committee appointed by Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy, who adopted the recommendations yesterday. The committee, headed by Director-General Nahum Langenthal, included ministry officials, representatives of the Egged and Dan bus cooperatives, and representatives of the Eda Haredit.

Transport Ministry spokesman Avner Ovadia said the system would be in place by September.

The committee, a ministry statement said, had been appointed to encourage use of public transport by the haredim.

Although men and women are to sit separately, there is to be no physical division between them. In addition, no passenger is to be forced to enter through the front or back door. In order to facilitate the separate seating, an automatic punch machine is to be installed at the back door of relevant buses, enabling passengers to punch their own tickets.

According to Ovadia, the system will be introduced on bus

lines 1 and 5 in Bnei Brak within six weeks and, within three months, on two as-yet undetermined lines that service haredi neighborhoods in Jerusalem.

The plan sparked varying reactions among the non-Orthodox. Tamar Elor, an anthropologist who has studied haredi women, argued that "it's good that different communities can enjoy different services, and if they [the haredim] wish to have it this way, that's fine. I don't see any harm in it, though I know that a lot of my feminist friends will think it symbolically difficult because women will sit at the back."

Rachel Ben-Zimman, legal adviser

for the Israel Women's Network, had a very different response.

"I think this decision is illegal and goes against one of the main principles of the State of Israel: equality. I think it is degrading to women, and the fact that they call it voluntary is a trick. These haredi communities will not tolerate women who opt not to participate in the new system. And by turning a blind eye to segregation on the buses, the government is condoning it. We're going to demand that the ministry either stop subsidizing the bus companies or that they end this segregated service."

Jonathan Tepperman contributed to this report.



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Knesset approves Eitan, Ne'eman to new posts

By LIAT COLLINS

By a vote of 52 to 46, the Knesset yesterday endorsed the appointment of Ya'acov Ne'eman as finance minister and Likud MK Michael Eitan as science minister. The two, clearly emotional, were sworn in yesterday afternoon.

The appointment of Likud MK Silvan Shalom as deputy Defense Minister was announced by his new boss, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. It does not require a vote. Shalom and Eitan are to rotate their posts in a year.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presented his appointments in a brief statement, depriving the opposition of a chance to heckle his speech. "I believe the Knesset should welcome the appointment of two experienced and able people who will help the government in its work," he said.

It is the second time Ne'eman has been a member of this government. He was forced to resign as justice minister last year to face charges of obstruction of justice of which he was subsequently acquitted.

Although the announcement of the proposed appointments lasted a matter of minutes, the discussions on them dragged on for nearly three hours along fairly predictable opposition-coalition lines.

The only drama came when Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi tried to explain why his party would not support the appointments, blasting the government for, among other things, "accepting 'Adolph' Arafat as a partner and friend and forsaking Eretz Yisrael." Deputy Speaker Nawaf Massalha (Labor), objected to the Arafat-Hitler comparison and when Ze'evi continued, Massalha called him to order three times before demanding he leave the plenum. Ze'evi initially refused to go but was finally persuaded by other MKs to respect the authority of the acting Speaker.

Although he and Moledet MK Benny Elon voted against the appointments, Ze'evi later crashed the Likud reception for Eitan and Shalom to congratulate them.

The roll-call vote on the appointments, which carry the weight of a vote of confidence in the prime minister, was marked more by those absent than those present. A total of 22 MKs were absent, including former ministers Dan Meridor and Binyamin Ze'ev Begin and MK Shaul Amur (Likud), who had been a candidate for the science portfolio. MK David Re'em (Likud) voted in favor despite his earlier criticism of the appointment of Ne'eman instead of National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.



National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon congratulates new Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman immediately after his swearing in. (Isaac Harari)

At a short ceremony in the Speaker's office to toast the new ministers, Netanyahu played on the meanings of the names "Ne'eman" (loyal), "Eitan" (strong) and "Shalom" (peace) saying this is what he hoped he had brought into the government.

"I think there will be many more challenges but I think the government was noticeably strengthened today," he said. "We can complete the mission we've been entrusted with." He said apart from helping the diplomatic process, the appointments would benefit the "economic and social revolution on which we've embarked." Asked whether Sharon would be a partner in the diplomatic process, Netanyahu replied, "To the extent that he wants to be, he will be a partner because I value his strength and his advice."

Responding to a question, Eitan reaffirmed his opinion that there should be a national unity government though it would probably mean him losing his new ministerial seat. "My commitment to a national unity government did not disappear the moment I entered the government," he said. "I know that if such

a government were established I would have to pay a personal price, but I'm willing to do so and I'll do my best to achieve this goal as I think it is very important to the talks on the permanent arrangements with the Palestinians. I believe the Israeli nation will be better represented and will be able to achieve more with a national unity government."

Eitan said that for over a year he had been working on science-related issues including the computerization of the Knesset and its Internet site (<http://www.knesset.gov.il>) and a plan for computerization and Internet links in all government offices in the future to facilitate access for the public.

Just before his ministerial appointment, the Knesset approved the final reading of a bill submitted by Eitan which would reduce the parliamentary immunity of MKs in fields not directly related to their Knesset work.

Ne'eman, on his way to his first meeting as finance minister, told reporters he was "aware of the big task and the responsibility" facing him. Although he is a former director-general of the Finance Ministry,

he said he would have to become updated with the current situation, "because the problems have grown since then."

Shalom expressed slight regret at getting only the deputy minister's post, despite the promise of rotation with Eitan after a year. Asked about his possible contribution to the defense ministry, he said his strong financial background would help him in defense budget issues. "Not every health minister is a doctor, not every finance minister is an economist, and not everyone in the defense ministry needs to come from a strong military background," he said.

Also in the Knesset yesterday, Meir Shalev was chosen to replace Eitan as the Likud-Gesher-Tomert whip. No appointment has been made yet to the position of coalition whip. In the past the two functions were combined, but the coalition chairman position was promised to Gesher by Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, as part of the government appointments. MK David Magen turned it down yesterday.

Yehuda Lankri (Gesher) was appointed a deputy Knesset Speaker.

Who are the new ministers?

YA'ACOV NE'EMAN
Finance Minister

Ne'eman, 57, was born in the village of Beit El in the West Bank. He studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and earned a law degree from Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan. He was a member of the Knesset from 1977 to 1981, representing the Likud. He served as deputy director-general of the Finance Ministry from 1981 to 1985 and as director-general from 1985 to 1990. He was appointed finance minister yesterday.

MICHAEL EITAN
Science Minister

Eitan, 57, was born in the village of Beit El in the West Bank. He studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and earned a law degree from Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan. He was a member of the Knesset from 1977 to 1981, representing the Likud. He served as deputy director-general of the Science Ministry from 1981 to 1985 and as director-general from 1985 to 1990. He was appointed science minister yesterday.

SILVAN SHALOM
Deputy Defense Minister

Born in Tunisia in 1958, Silvan Shalom was first elected to the Knesset in 1992. With degrees in law and economics, Shalom worked as a journalist and as director-general of the Energy and Infrastructure Ministry before moving to politics. One of the earliest Likud MKs to back Netanyahu's bid for party leadership, Shalom has been named as a likely candidate for science minister since Ze'evi's resignation from the post in January. Shalom is currently leader of the Likud faction on the Knesset Finance Committee, and in this capacity has acted as a party spokesman on economic affairs.

Compiled by Jonathan Tepperman

Shalom given responsibility for 7 defense areas

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Newly appointed Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom will be responsible for seven areas, including relations with Jewish settlers and the Home Front Command.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai outlined the areas with Shalom during a meeting at the Knesset.

According to Mordechai's office, the deputy defense minister will also be responsible for

the emergency civil defense and confrontation line settlements.

He will also act as a liaison between the ministry and the Knesset, thus relieving Mordechai of the need to reply to parliamentary queries.

Shalom is also to deal with national endeavors through the youth and Nahal department and certain economic issues to be determined by the defense minister.

Mordechai hoped that his deputy would be able to help

enhance state security.

In an interview published in *Ha'aretz*, Mordechai said that Shalom would help take some of the load off his shoulders.

"I am a member of the government, the inner cabinet and forum of advisers. I am dealing with local and external politics, the peace process and security. I am in command of the IDF and the military industries. A deputy minister will certainly help," Mordechai was quoted as saying.

ANALYSIS

New Arab alliances intended to spur further redeployment

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Palestinian analysts attribute Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's interest in an alliance of militant states centered on the Syrian-Iranian axis, with Iraq as an active participant, to his concern about possible delays in Israel's next West Bank redeployment, due to be completed by October.

These sources believe the Palestinian leader was advised by Damascus that it would be prudent to be aligned with Syria rather than ostracized by the Arab world for seeking peace with an Israeli government, whose political make-up prevents it from handing over significant segments of the West Bank.

His rapprochement with Iran, whose Islamic fundamentalist regime disapproves of the entire peace process, is seen as a means of placating, if not neutralizing, the pro-Iranian Hamas organization, whose adherents constitute a substantial percentage of the Gaza Strip's voters.

This tactic, as well as his effort to lend respectability to



PA Chairman Yasser Arafat (Ariel Jermolinski)

President Saddam Hussein's regime in Baghdad, is a calculated risk because it runs counter to the "double containment" policy advocated by US Ambassador Martin Indyk, whose diplomatic acumen was recognized by his recent appointment to the key post of Undersecretary of State for Middle Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

The underlying motives for Syria, Iran and Iraq to close ranks are:

- Resentment of Turkey's close military relationship with Israel;
- Disapproval of Turkey's massive penetration into northern Iraq in a bid to crush the separatist Kurdish PKK party, which Ankara regards as a terrorist organization, but whose commander was given sanctuary by Syria and some of whose training camps are in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

Syria and Iraq share a common grievance against Turkey: the allegedly inadequate release of water from the Euphrates River backed up at the giant Ataturk Dam.

Sensing an inevitable showdown with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government this autumn, Arafat evidently is trying to supplement the substantial sympathy and support that exists for him in Western Europe and the US by getting three of the most important states in the Arab and Islamic worlds to march in step with him.

Mordechai rejects calls for Lebanon withdrawal

By LIAT COLLINS
and DAVID RUDGE

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday again rejected calls for a unilateral IDF withdrawal from Lebanon. Answering several motions to the agenda in the Knesset, Mordechai said the IDF is there for security reasons only.

"We have no desire to be there apart from pure defense-related reasons which obligate us to be in the security zone," he said. "But we have promised ourselves and the fighters that the government will time and again examine the possi-

bility of changing the situation."

He said that during a tour of the area this week and meetings with soldiers there, he had been told a unilateral pullout would present a direct threat to border communities.

Mordechai also recalled the bloody terror attacks in the North in the years before the security zone was established, saying a withdrawal now would be disastrous.

Mordechai rejected, however, a proposal by MK Hanan Porat (NRP) to consider a separate independent state in south Lebanon, controlled by the South Lebanese Army.

Mordechai spoke of a three-pronged approach: resuming the talks with Syria; preparing forces and means to fight terror, and to seek the help of international powers.

Both Mordechai and Porat eulogized Maj. Nadav Milo, who was killed in Lebanon this week.

Porat's daughter Tirza had planned to marry Milo. In May, Capt. Eran Shamir, the boyfriend of another of Porat's daughters, was also killed in Lebanon.

Hizbullah officials meanwhile vowed that the organization would retaliate for "repeated Zionist

attacks on Lebanese civilians - in the night place and at the right time."

The warning came as shells were again fired at IDF positions inside the security zone and along Israel's northern border in the early hours of yesterday morning. None of the shells, apparently, fell inside Israeli territory.

It was the third time in the space of a week that Hizbullah gunmen have fired at IDF positions on or very close to the border. On the previous occasions, last Thursday morning and on Sunday night, at least one Katyusha rocket and one mortar shell fell inside Israeli territory.

Uzi Arad, who met peace envoy Dennis Ross in Washington.

"Arad will give us a more up-to-date picture," Eytan said. Arad is due back here later this week.

In any case, he contended, the Israeli-Palestinian negotiating process was "getting back on track" and he attributed the latest upsurge of diplomatic activity to the impending UN General Assembly session at which the Arab states hope to elicit a massive condemnation of Israel because of the Har Homa housing project.

On the other hand, informed sources said the US has been discreetly advising the resolution's sponsors that "hard-line" treatment of Israel could be counterproductive.

justice minister.

Ran Cohen (Meretz), chairman of the Knesset State Control Committee, said: "Anyone who said 'Ehud fled' should eat his hat, swallow his words and beg Barak for forgiveness. Any decent person should welcome the decision and remember the dead in true sorrow."

MK Dan Meridor (Likud) said he was against using the Tze'elim-2 disaster to get at Barak.

"A military disaster should not be used in a political argument," he said.

Arieh O'Sullivan contributed to this report

BARAK

Continued from Page 1

Hanegbi, however, said Barak should call for a state committee of inquiry to investigate the disaster because of the seriousness of the allegations.

He noted that the claims of bereaved families had not been rejected just because the State comptroller said she did not have the means to rule on the issue.

Cohen said Labor would call for a commission of inquiry into Hanegbi's behavior and urged the prime minister to fire the

MORDECHAI

Continued from Page 1

"I'm very concerned about the growing tensions between the Palestinians and the Israelis," Clinton said.

Sources close to the PA leadership said the idea of a Mordechai-Shaath meeting provoked furious debate and angry recriminations before it took place.

The meeting was aimed at finding "common ground and a way to return negotiations to their correct path," said a spokesman for PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Earlier, Levy held separate discussions with both Cabinet

Secretary Danny Naveh, Israel's coordinator of the ongoing contacts with Palestinian representatives, and with Netanyahu's personal legal adviser, Yitzhak Molcho, who has been one of Naveh's regular partners in the negotiating sessions with the Palestinians.

The foreign minister's media adviser, Freddy Eytan, said Levy's objective was to "solidify the team" dealing with the Palestinians.

He has also asked the ministry's research unit to formulate concepts and possible trade-offs (such as the Gaza port or Dahaniya airport) in anticipation of the prospective final-status talks with PA delegates. The contents would then be submitted to the cabinet and the

defense establishment for their consideration.

One of Levy's principal concerns, Eytan said, is that the government's opening position when the full range of negotiations spelled out in the Oslo Accords is resumed.

The current pace of diplomatic activity involving Israeli and Palestinian personnel was described by him as evidence that the Egyptian mediation effort undertaken by top adviser Osama el-Baz was having a positive impact, while the American involvement was being intensified and upgraded.

Senior officials in the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office have been awaiting the return from the US of Netanyahu's political adviser,

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Alex Grass
Chairman of the Board of Governors

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MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

CHANGE OF DATE AND VENUE

of the Meeting to Present the Guidelines of the Tender for a Third Operator of Mobile Radio Telephone Services

The meeting will take place on Monday, July 14, 1997 at 10:30 a.m. at the I.C.C. (Binyanei Ha'Ezra), 3rd floor, room 313, Jerusalem and not as previously published.

Participating in the Meeting:
Minister of Communications Limor Livnat
Director General of the Ministry of Communications and Chairman of the Tenders Committee, Daniel Rosenne

Those wishing to attend the meeting are requested to call the Ministry of Communications, Spokesman's Bureau. Tel. 02-670-6323

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مكتبة النور

Barak: Comptroller has vindicated me

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

A clearly relieved Labor leader Ehud Barak yesterday lauded State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat's announcement that she did not intend to investigate the Tze'elim-2 disaster — a 1992 training accident that killed five soldiers and wounded six. Barak claimed her decision vindicated him by refuting allegations that he had abandoned the wounded men.

Barak said the Comptroller's statement "establishes clearly and unequivocally that there was no basis to the slanderous allegations printed in the press or uttered by political hooligans about abandoning wounded soldiers."

Barak was referring to the *Yediot Aharonot* report about an alleged "cover-up" in the Tze'elim-2 disaster, and to Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi's attack on him in the Knesset 11 days ago. Hanegbi waved the newspaper and, misquoting from it, charged Barak with bolting from the scene and abandoning wounded soldiers.

Barak replied by telling Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (whom Hanegbi was representing and who refused to take

back Hanegbi's accusations), that his late brother, Yoni, would have been ashamed of him. Yoni had been very close to Barak, who was his commander and mentor in the army.

Barak said the State Comptroller had put an end to the "deliberate, wicked and painful" slander which had been haunting him for two years. "Nothing harms an officer more, and me in particular," said Barak, "than the charge of abandoning the wounded. I hope that no IDF commander will ever find himself in the future facing this type of slander."

"What the State Comptroller has done, in fact, is to say there is so little basis for the slander that there is no point in even opening an investigation, since one was done immediately afterwards, and the same people testified then."

Barak said that when he learned that the State Comptroller intended to make an announcement in the Tze'elim-2 case, he had no idea what it would be, but hoped it would end the affair. "I couldn't imagine such a clear, sharp and balanced statement," he said.

Barak said "Netanyahu knows

why I said what I said [that Yoni would have been ashamed of him]. It wasn't for his functioning as prime minister. I was referring to his sending that adolescent hooligan of his to the Knesset podium with that message."

Former Justice Minister MK Moshe Shahal (Labor) said "Hanegbi is continuing with his lies and distortions. We should all be ashamed of having such a justice minister, whose membership in the cabinet is made possible only because of the black box he is holding over the head of the prime minister [in the Bar-On affair]."

Barak received unexpected support from Shas chairman MK Arye Deri and MK Dan Meridor, who took his side against Hanegbi. Deri called on Hanegbi to argue with Barak on political issues as much as he wants, "but in the Tze'elim-2 disaster it has to stop. The moment the State Comptroller has had her say, there is no place for further investigation."

Meridor blasted Hanegbi's attacks on the former chief of staff, noting "it's very important for us to leave the disasters, the wounded and the casualties out of the political war."



State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat prepares to deliver her announcement on the Tze'elim-2 disaster at the Knesset yesterday. State Comptroller Committee Chairman Ran Cohen is at her left. (Elinor Kikilash)

COMMENT

Politically, Tze'elim simply won't go away

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Despite the state comptroller's decision not to investigate the allegations against Ehud Barak stemming from the Tze'elim-2 disaster, the affair will remain on the political agenda.

Tze'elim is the Likud's "secret weapon" against the Labor leader. If the Likud and the Right can discredit and delegitimize Barak, they reckon they can secure the next elections.

This is why Netanyahu did not disassociate himself from Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi's much-condemned trade against Barak over the Tze'elim affair in the Knesset 11 days ago — even though Hanegbi distorted Barak's role by misquoting *Yediot Aharonot*'s expose of the incident.

Waving the newspaper and giving the impression he was quoting from it, Hanegbi cried "Ehud bolted" and "the wounded soldiers saw him take off in his helicopter." *Yediot* never wrote that Barak abandoned the wounded and journalist Rami Tal, who wrote the piece, has publicly complained about Hanegbi's presentation of his article.

Political commentators said Hanegbi's attack was a trial balloon floated on behalf of the prime minister to test the elections air.

However, the Likud may have unleashed its secret weapon too soon. Many coalition members think the tactic could boomerang. A smear must not be easily proved groundless if it is to work. A formidable battery of experts — the chief of staff, generals, a doctor and other eyewitnesses is ranged

against the detractors.

Even MKs Arye Deri and Dan Meridor, clearly displeased with Hanegbi's conduct, yesterday urged Hanegbi to lay off Barak and not to involve military disasters and casualties in political warfare.

Observers compare the assault on Barak with the Likud campaign to discredit the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin with rumors of drunkenness and a breakdown during the Six Day War. Others recalled Likud whispers of Peres's "Arab mother" and of his shares in Tadiran. Some people still believe them.

Rabin confronted the rumors head-on by telling his story to the press in his special direct way, effectively neutralizing the critics. Barak's supporters believe he must do the same.

Tze'elim-2 — a brief summary

Thursday, November 5, 1992: Five soldiers are killed and six wounded in a training accident near Tze'elim, in the Negev, when they are hit by an accidentally-fired missile.

Then-chief of general staff Ehud Barak appoints an investigating committee, headed by Maj.-Gen. Menahem Eitan, to probe the accident.

November 15, 1992: After interviewing 25 witnesses and examining over 100 exhibits, the committee concludes that while Barak had witnessed the accident, he had played no role in planning the drill and thus carried no responsibility for its results.

Preparation for the drill had been faulty and the drill itself had not been carried out according to standing safety regulations. No contingency plan had been drawn up. No had safety officers been appointed to supervise.

The committee therefore concludes that two IDF officers directly responsible should be prosecuted, as should Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine, who bore responsibility as commander of the troops involved. An additional reprimand is later recommended for intelligence chief Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy.

March 11, 1994: Former chief of staff Dan Shomron decides that, for their role in the accident, Levine should be reprimanded and that a simple warning should be issued to Saguy.

October 17, 1994: A military court resolves not to sentence the two junior officers responsible for Tze'elim. Instead, the officers are given suspended sentences and demoted in rank. Families of the Tze'elim victims announce plans to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

July 1995: State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat declares that she has initiated a probe of the affair and of the military's response, as part of a general investigation of IDF accidents. Meanwhile, on the eve of Barak's rumored appointment as interior minister, a *Yediot Aharonot* report

accuses Barak of indifference to the suffering of the soldiers wounded at Tze'elim.

The report alleges Barak:

- left the scene of the accident shortly after it occurred;
- refused to use his private helicopter to evacuate the wounded;
- changed his story of the events in order to protect Levine from punishment.

Hastily returning from a trip to China, Barak denounces the report as "twisted and false," and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin rejects calls for a new government inquiry into the accident.

June 26, 1997: Barak calls on Ben-Porat to release the results of her inquiry, after Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi reads the *Yediot* report on Tze'elim-2 in the Knesset. Parents of soldiers killed in the accident publicly criticize the IDF for refusing to take high-level responsibility for the affair.

Compiled by Jonathan Tapperman and Avi Levy

Soya oil replacing silicone in breast implants

By JUDY SIEGEL

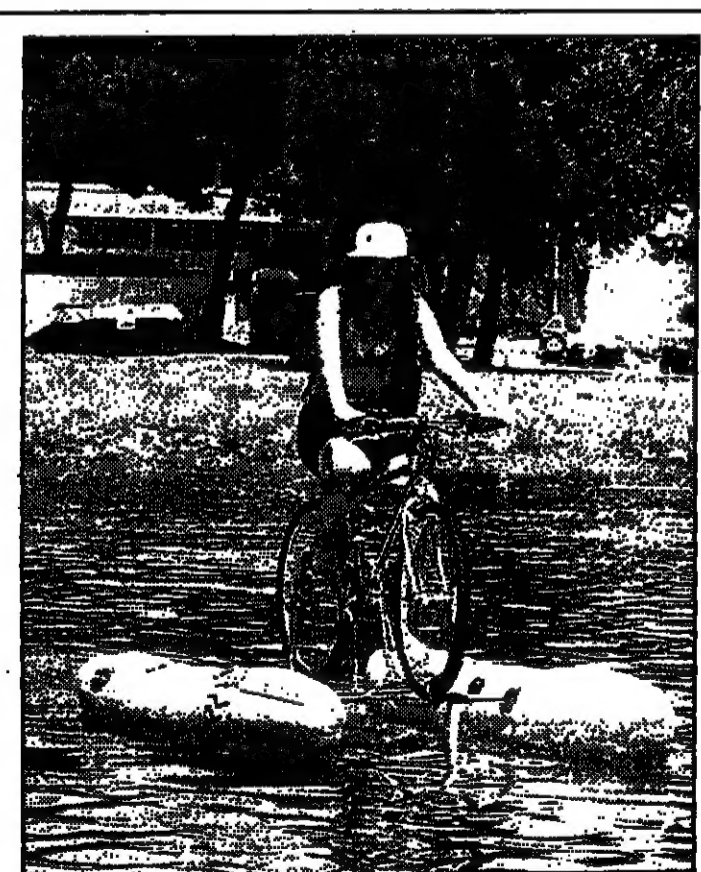
Silicone is out, and soya is in — for breast implants, that is.

Assaf Harofeh Hospital's plastic surgery department has begun using sacks of processed soya oil to augment breasts or to reconstruct them for women who have undergone a mastectomy. The oil replaces silicone, which has been accused — without proof so far — of causing all kinds of complications for the immune system, as has saline.

Dr. Moshe Westreich, head of the plastic surgery department at the Tzrifin hospital, said that saline is not recommended because it looks opaque in x-rays and can hide breast tumors. Soya oil implants, however, are clear and cause no harm in the rare event that they are punctured and leak into the body.

Assaf Harofeh doctors have implanted the oil-filled sacks into five women so far, and all have been pleased with the results. The soya implants are more viscous, and therefore more natural feeling, than saline, though less so than silicone, Westreich added.

Westreich says the Health Ministry approved their use recently following approval by the Swiss, Italian, and German health authorities.



Joyride

A woman demonstrates a water bicycle yesterday on a lake at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds. The bicycle is one of hundreds of new products and inventions on display at the Man and His World 97 exhibition, which opened at the fairgrounds yesterday.

(Dan Orensky/Israel Sun)

New laser technique improves chances of IVF

By JUDY SIEGEL

Israeli fertility specialists have produced the first babies in the world conceived by drilling a hole in the ovum with an excimer laser, allowing easier rooting in the uterus. The two babies, a boy and a girl, were born two months ago, and 12 more pregnancies made possible by this "assisted hatching" technique are now in progress.

The technique was developed over the past eight years by Prof. Neri Laufer, chief of gynecology and obstetrics at Hadassah University Hospital on Jerusalem's Mt. Scopus and head of its In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Unit, with help from Prof. Aaron Lewis, head of Hadassah's laser department, and advice from Hadassah Medical Organization director-general Prof. Shmuel Penchas.

Laufer said yesterday that Lewis adapted the excimer laser from the type used for radial keratotomy, the ophthalmological technique that can eliminate the need for glasses in nearsighted patients.

The ova of older women have thicker shells, so it's more difficult for sperm to penetrate and for the fertilized egg to secure itself to the wall of the womb. Until now, sperm have been "shot" into ova and then implanted in the uterus, and acids have been used to dissolve a tiny spot on the shell of the ovum so that the embryo can escape.

The chemicals (similar to digestive acids) may harm the resulting embryo, which then has to be dis-

carded; this loss reduces the IVF success rate. During the past three years, less-suitable types of lasers (such as the carbon dioxide laser), which produce charring and can harm the ovum, have been used — but with limited success.

But Hadassah's use of a "clean" excimer laser to drill the hole avoids the potential damage to the embryo and produces an opening with an exact width, producing a biochemical effect that helps the embryo "hatch" and take root. The technique can be especially useful for older women, or for those who have undergone repeated IVF cycles.

The first baby, a girl, was delivered by a 40-year-old Jerusalem mother of one who had undergone seven IVF cycles. The other infant, a boy, was delivered by a 38-year-old childless woman who had undergone eight fruitless IVF treatments.

If the clinical trials continue to be successful, Laufer says the excimer laser treatment "could be a breakthrough" for such women.

Foreign Ministry against Beilin meeting British minister

By JAY BUSHINSKY

MK Yossi Beilin's projected meeting in London with a government minister who made disparaging comments about Israel is generating diplomatic discomfort in both countries.

One of the remarks made three weeks ago by Labor's Claire Short to a British society known as Medical Aid to the Palestinians implied that expiation for Nazi Germany's crimes was being wrongly asked of the Arabs.

"I am very conscious of the historical wrongs done to the Palestinian people, and the unfairness of the world's expectation that they should make sacrifices to make up for the evil done by Europeans during the Holocaust," Short said.

The Hebrew daily *Ha'aretz* cited a "round-about comparison" reportedly made by her between Israel's attitude

toward the Palestinians and the Nazi attitude toward the Jews.

Beilin reportedly disregarded a recommendation made by the Israeli embassy in London that he not meet Short. The Foreign Ministry sent the embassy a list of key figures in the new Labor government, asking that it facilitate meetings between Beilin and them. Short's name was not on the list.

The Foreign Ministry also lodged a protest against Short's statements, and received an immediate rejoinder from Whitehall stating that the minister's comments were not in line with British foreign policy.

Beilin's apparent disregard of the Foreign Ministry's request is reminiscent of the complaint registered by Israel's embassy in Washington against Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak for having committed himself to meetings with various American political kingpins and media people.

Arabs: Boycott Jerusalem, settler goods

By MARILYN HENRY

Setting the stage for a fierce renewal of the UN debate on Har Homa, the Arab states this week were circulating a proposed resolution that calls on Israel to cease construction at the Jerusalem site, and calls on UN members to bar the import of any goods produced or made in the settlements or Jerusalem.

The draft resolution also suggests limiting Israel's activity in the General Assembly, saying that "normal participation by a member state cannot be carried out while it is simultaneously and systematically violating international law." It did not elaborate.

The assembly session was requested by Egypt, which is serving this month as chairman of

the Arab Group at the UN. The session, which is expected to open on Tuesday, would be a continuation of April's emergency UN session on Har Homa, and the fifth UN session on the Jerusalem housing project in less than five months. The April session, which ended with a resolution that condemned Israel for the Har Homa project, was the first emergency session since 1982 and only the 10th since the Korean War.

It came after two debates in the Security Council, where the US, on March 7 and March 21, twice vetoed comparable resolutions on Har Homa. The US does not support the Har Homa project, but has said that such disputes must be resolved between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Further, US Ambassador Bill Richardson assailed the April 25 vote in the assembly, saying it set "a dangerous precedent" by "infringing on the council's authority."

Israel also attacked the original emergency session as unwarranted. Israel's acting ambassador, charge d'affaires David Peleg, said at the time, "There was no procedural or substantive justification for the convening of the 'special emergency session' ... concerning the construction of a residential neighborhood in Jerusalem."

General Assembly resolutions are not binding. Nonetheless, the Palestinians have been adroit at "internationalizing" the dispute, and keeping Har Homa on the UN calendar, amid crises in

Cambodia and the Congo.

The draft resolution also asks UN members to take measures to halt any support for Israeli settlements and their economic infrastructures by companies and individuals in their respective countries.

On April 25, the General Assembly demanded that Israel immediately cease work on Har Homa, and asked Secretary-General Kofi Annan to issue a report on the matter within two months. His report said Israel had not stopped the construction and that this was "viewed as particularly serious" for a variety of political, geographic, demographic and economic reasons, as well as because of its effects on the faltering Middle East peace process.

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NEWS

in brief

Court orders probe of missing 1948 victims

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered the Defense Ministry to investigate the unsolved mystery of a group of doctors and nurses whose bodies went missing after a convoy in which they were traveling to Hadassa Hospital in 1948 was attacked and the group massacred. The court also ordered the State to set up a genetic database of the missing persons' family members within 60 days to facilitate later identification.

The orders were issued in response to petitions from journalist Yehoshua Levanon and Defense Ministry staffer Arie Karner whose fathers were among the massacre victims. The court did not, at this stage, order the opening of graves in the East Jerusalem Moslem cemetery where the petitioners believe some of those who went missing are buried.

MK: Check discrimination against Druse soldiers

Knesset Interior Committee chairman Salah Tarif has demanded that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai examine complaints that Druse soldiers are forbidden entry to entertainment establishments in the North, like discotheques.

Such complaints were put forward to the defense minister when he visited a Druse unit in the Northern Command on Tuesday. A group of Druse leaders, including Tarif, are to travel to the North next week to hear the complaints for themselves.

"This is racism of the first order. Druse soldiers can die for our country, but can't get into places of entertainment," Tarif said. "This phenomenon just demonstrates that Israeli society has a serious problem dealing with Druse, and this must be rooted out immediately."

Woman to become army base commander

The IDF will soon appoint a female officer as commander of the recruit training base at Nitzanim — the first time such a position has been given to a woman.

Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj. Gen. Matan Vilna'i, who said he supports opening more posts to women, made the announcement as he accompanied Communications Minister Limor Livnat to the signals and electronics corps training school at the Israel Air Force base in Tel Nof.

Livnat said she was satisfied with the integration of women in the IDF, but said there was still room for improvement. She met with female officers on the base, but many complained of restricted opportunities for advancement.

"I hope and believe that [advancement] will come, even if the revolution won't be overnight," Livnat said.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Housing plan distinguishes between Jewish, Falash Mura Ethiopian immigrants

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

By next March, all Ethiopian Jewish immigrants should be able to move out of the mobile homes where they currently live, according to a plan announced by the Prime Minister's Office in conjunction with the Housing and Absorption ministries Tuesday night.

However, the new plan does not apply to some 3,000 Falash Mura living at the caravan sites, for whom a Housing Ministry spokesman said a "separate plan" would be worked out. The spokesman insisted that the plan would simply involve "a technical separation," but refused to elaborate. The distinction is opposed by leaders of the Ethiopian Jewish community.

According to an Absorption Ministry spokesman, single Ethiopian immigrants would be eligible for a NIS 180,000 mortgage, NIS 135,000 of which will become a grant. Families will be eligible for a NIS 300,000 mortgage, 90 percent of which will become a grant. Those who choose to rent apartments will be eligible for NIS 1,300 in monthly subsidies, NIS 600 for singles.

Shlomo Mula, secretary of the United Ethiopian Jewish Association, had a mixed reaction.

"We are very happy that a policy has finally been set regarding the liquidation of the mobile home sites, which are an embarrassment to the state," Mula said. He called the decision a "positive one," and said his organization would cooperate in the effort to do away with the caravans, "but we oppose the idea of separation" between the Falash Mura and other Ethiopian immigrants when determining criteria for housing grants.

"We certainly are in favor of establishing criteria based on how long the immigrants have been here," Mula said. "But there is no reason why anyone who is an Israeli citizen and has an identity card should not receive such assistance."

Mula said his organization would encourage Ethiopian immigrants to accept the "generous" financial offer, but called on the Housing Ministry to find a different solution for 70-80 elderly immigrants living in the caravans. "They should be allowed to live together in hostels, like the Russian immigrants," Mula said.

Susskind remanded until end of trial

News agencies

Tatiana Susskind, 26, who is accused of posting leaflets in Hebron depicting Mohammed as a pig late last month, was remanded by the Jerusalem District Court yesterday until the end of her trial.

Susskind is accused of offending religious sensibilities, committing a racist act, and endangering life on the road. The latter charge stems from her allegedly having thrown a rock at an Arab car traveling on the road between Kiryat Arba and Hebron, the day after posting the leaflets.

Judge Ezra Kama said that there is no argument about the evidence and that "the accused poses a danger to public safety and has seemingly proven that she has lost control and wishes to deliberately commit provocative acts, since immediately after being released from questioning on the matter of the leaflets, she threw a rock, an act that is clearly dangerous."

Susskind's lawyer, Shmuel Kasper, said he would appeal the ruling. Right-wing activists Avigdor Eskin and Emanuel Ribakoff were detained for five hours yesterday, in what Eskin claimed was an illegal fashion.

According to Eskin, the two were in a taxi traveling to the district court, when a police car cut them off, and two policemen emerged to arrest them, saying they were suspected of disturbing the peace.

"This was all done to prevent us from getting to the court to protest the continued detention of Tatiana Susskind. What they did was against the law, because they didn't even question us," Eskin said. He said he planned to file a complaint.

Also yesterday, three rabbis gave an inscribed copy of the Koran to the Hebron school which was vandalized several days ago. Palestinians say IDF soldiers were involved in the



Tatiana Susskind is brought into Jerusalem District Court, where she was remanded until the end of legal proceedings.

(Boris Reichen)

vandalism, in which four copies of the Koran were torn up. The IDF denies soldiers were involved.

Rabbi Jeremy Milgrom, one of three rabbis who visited the al-Yacubia school, said he was worried that the political conflict between Israelis and Palestinians was taking on religious connotations. "We came to visit the school

which was ransacked, to see the destruction," said Milgrom, of the Israeli Rabbis for Human Rights group. "We brought a Koran. We inscribed it and gave it to the headmistress," he said.

"What is really frightening and we are very concerned that the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians will deteriorate into a religious war," Milgrom said. Meanwhile, an Egyptian

lawyer has sued Israel for \$10 billion in compensation for the posting of the pig leaflets, while another lawyer wants Israel to pay for printing 1 billion copies of the Koran.

Court officials in Cairo said yesterday the two lawyers recently filed the separate cases.

In the leaflet case, lawyer Mustafa Ashoub named Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as

the defendant. The trial is set for August 4.

Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Zvi Mazel is named defendant in the second case by Mustafa Roslan. No trial date has been set.

Israeli Embassy spokesman Lior Ben-Dor said the embassy has not been notified about the cases, and it will anyway ignore them.

Israel: PA assault on monastery violated Oslo Accords

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Israel yesterday accused the Palestinian Authority of violating the Oslo Accords in its assault on the Abraham's Oak Russian Orthodox Monastery in Hebron.

During the assault, which took place on Saturday, PA security forces ousted clergy belonging to the New York-based Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia and installed the Moscow-based Russian Orthodox Patriarchate. The New York-based church had occupied the building since the Jordanian government ruled that it was the rightful owner in the early 1950s.

Archimandrite Bartholomew, local head of the New York-based church, charged that Palestinian policemen broke down the doors of the monastery, and cursed and beat the monks, nuns and priests inside. He said male and female police assaulted a nun, punched her in the stomach and pounded her head against a wall.

He also said that the abbess was dragged along the floor so that her head hit the stones and she had to be hospitalized. A monk was handcuffed, thrown to the ground and stomped

upon, he said.

A statement issued yesterday by the Government Press Office said that under the terms of the Oslo Accords, the PA is obligated to safeguard holy sites and ensure free access to them. The statement quoted Annex II, Appendix I, Article 32, which says that "both sides shall respect and protect the listed religious rights of Jews, Christians, Moslems and Samaritans."

The GPO statement said the PA had also violated the agreement by orchestrating riots in September 1996 near Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem in which a mob assaulted the site and Palestinian police shot and wounded Israeli soldiers. It said that during the same riots, Palestinian police led a mob which assaulted Joseph's Tomb in Nablus, killing six Israeli soldiers and burning Jewish prayer books, Bibles and religious articles. Finally, the statement said that the PA had refused to allow Jews to visit the ancient synagogue in Gaza.

Palestinian Preventive Security Chief Jibril Rajoub yesterday denied that any force had been used in evicting clergy from the Hebron monastery.

"We didn't touch anybody," Rajoub was quoted as telling the Associated Press.

No smoking on flights of up to five hours

By JUDY SIEGEL

The High Court of Justice ruled yesterday that from August, Israeli-owned commercial airlines must ban smoking on flights of up to five hours; at present, there is a two-hour limit. The justices voiced displeasure over the practice of allowing smoking on flights going to Britain and then continuing to the US because the transatlantic flight was supposedly "part" of the shorter flight to Europe, and "too long" for smokers to go without their tobacco.

The court, which will hold another session in three months to hear about implementation of the ruling, called on the government to reach agreements with transport ministries abroad to prohibit smoking on foreign airlines as well.

El Al, which has been sued by a number of its stewards and passengers, has promised to ban smoking on all flights if foreign airlines make the same routes smoke-free as well.

A private survey conducted by El Al found that only 13% of its passengers smoke (compared to 27% of the general Israeli population), and that just 7% ask for a seat in the smoking section. Because of this minority, the non-smoking majority has been subjected to poisonous tobacco smoke, said Amos Hausner, the attorney who represented the stewards. Hausner was hopeful that the High Court ruling would be enforced, as it was clear that the justices appreciated the anti-smoking arguments on behalf of the plaintiffs, he said.

Doctors warned about diet drugs

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry has issued new guidelines regarding the prescription of fenfluramine, phentermine and mazindole — diet drugs that in the US have been found to cause primary pulmonary hypertension and deformed heart valves in women taking them for more than three months.

The ministry decided to act after the US Food and Drug Administration sent similar warnings to thousands of American physicians who prescribe "fen-phen," a popular combination of diet pills. The combination was never approved by the FDA, although each of the two drugs was approved by itself for short period of time. In practice, people who were only mildly overweight have taken the drugs for over three months. US doctors have written 18

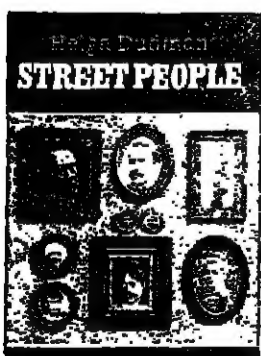
million prescriptions a month for these drugs. The first signs of the potentially fatal heart-lung condition are respiratory difficulties, tiredness and disquiet, followed by swelling of the lower limbs and chest pains.

The diet drugs, which are not supplied by Israeli health funds, are meant only for patients with a weight problem that endangers their health, not for those who want to reduce for cosmetic reasons, the ministry said yesterday in a response to queries from *The Jerusalem Post*. Only patients with a body mass index (weight in kilos divided by height in meters squared) of 30 and over are suited for the drugs, and only if they have other risk factors, including hypertension or diabetes.

The ministry said it was issuing the new guidelines even though there have been no reports in Israel of complications from these drugs.

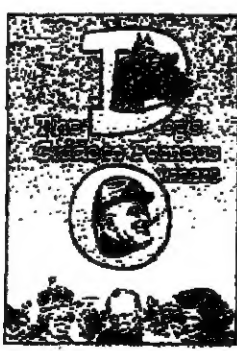
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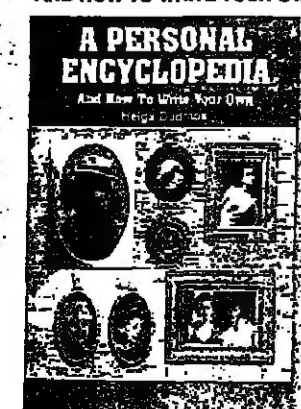
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After rover pr

By MICHAEL MILLER

Saddam slay

CAIRO — A report from a British newspaper that Saddam Hussein had been killed in a US-led coalition attack on his palace in Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday, was met with a mixture of skepticism and relief by officials in the Iraqi government and the UN.

The report, which came from a source close to the British government, stated that Hussein had been shot by a US missile while fleeing the city. The report also claimed that his body had been found in a ditch near the city of Tikrit.

However, Iraqi officials and the UN have not yet confirmed the report. They have only stated that they are aware of the rumors and are conducting investigations into the matter.

The report, if true, would mark the end of Hussein's 24-year rule over Iraq. It would also mark the end of the long and bloody conflict between the US and Iraq that began in 1990.

The UN has called for a ceasefire and for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Iraq. It has also called for the release of all prisoners of war and for the return of all displaced persons.

The UN has also called for the establishment of a new government in Iraq that is representative of all the Iraqi people. It has also called for the holding of free and fair elections in Iraq.

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הכזאם האמל

NATO, Ukraine sign pact

By BARRY SCHWEID

MADRID (AP) — After a historic decision to expand eastward, NATO closed ranks with Ukraine yesterday and moved to upgrade political and military cooperation with other countries — all with the goal of creating "a Europe where East and West are partners."

The 48-year-old alliance, formed initially to confront the Soviet Union, is now drawing in old foes like the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, which were invited Tuesday to join NATO in 1999.

At the same time, the heads of traditionally neutral states such as Switzerland and Sweden, as well as former communist nations were meeting with the leaders of the 16 NATO nations in the new 44-member Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council.

"Today, Europe's security is not a matter of competition but of competition on behalf of common goals," US President Bill Clinton said, after joining other leaders in signing the NATO-Ukraine pact.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Ukrainians "have suffered more than most from war in Europe." He said the pact "will help to ensure this never happens again."

The NATO-Ukraine linkup parallels the agreement concluded in May between the Western military alliance and Russia. It provided Moscow a voice, but not a veto, in NATO deliberations.

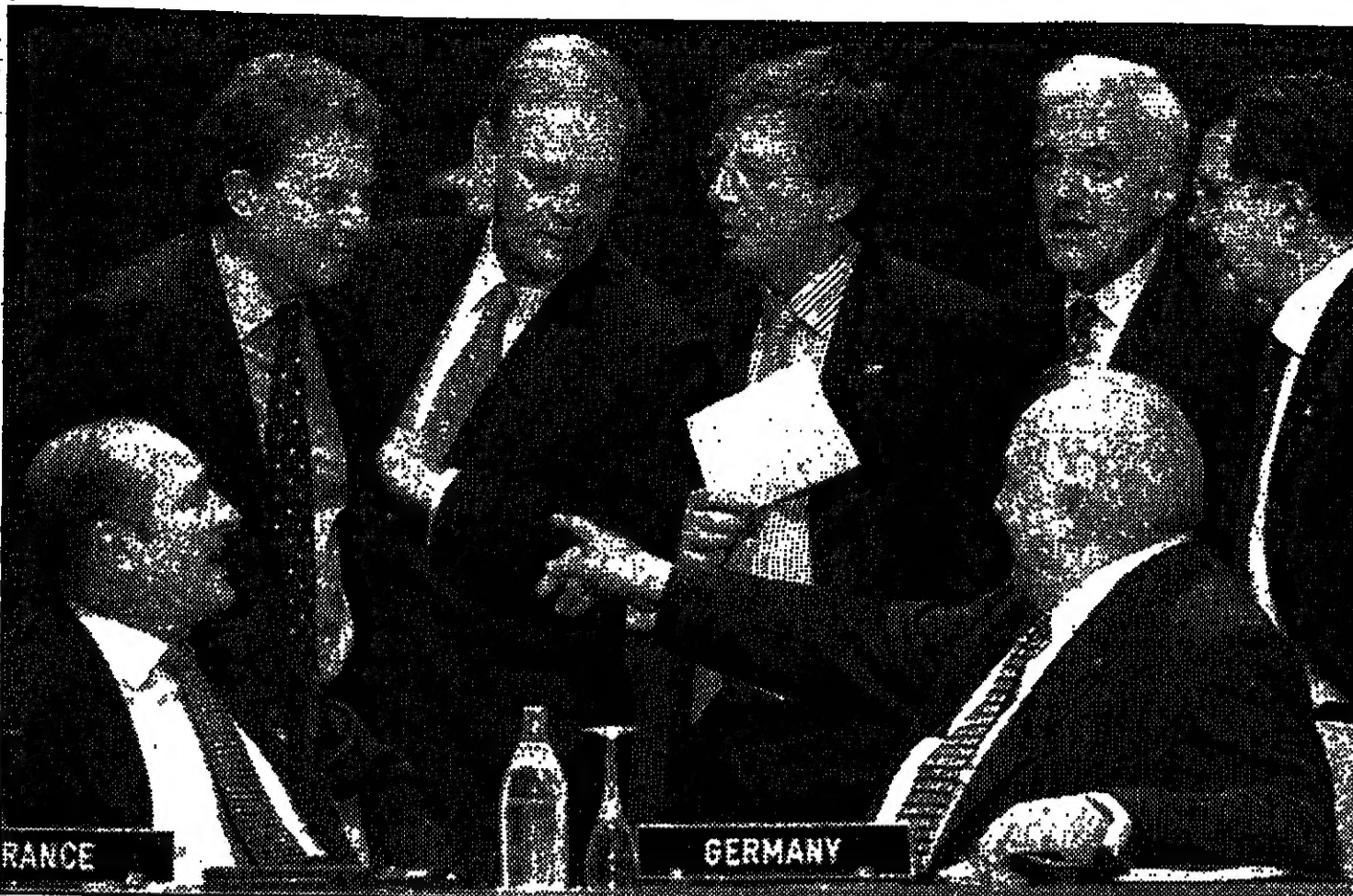
Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, meanwhile, said in Moscow that Russia considered NATO's expansion "a big mistake — maybe its biggest mistake since the end of World War II," President Boris Yeltsin was on vacation.

NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana and all 16 NATO leaders signed the accord in a ceremony that accorded Ukraine attention that it rarely commands on the world scene, as Western leaders concentrate on Russia.

"We take another step toward that new Europe," Clinton said.

He said Ukraine had taken bold steps, including its renunciation of nuclear weapons, that "have made this continent more stable and more secure."

President Leonid Kuchma said



German Chancellor Helmut Kohl (seated, right) makes a point to British Prime Minister Tony Blair (standing, left) before a signing ceremony with the Ukraine at the NATO summit in Madrid yesterday. Looking on are (from left) French President Jacques Chirac, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, and Walter Neuer, the head of Kohl's staff.

Ukraine "is ready to take part in providing peace and stability" in Central Europe. He also pledged to modernize Ukraine's economy.

"The signing of this charter today is a visible symbol of a new Europe," Solana said. "Not a Europe of the past, not a Europe of divisions, not a Europe of conflict between East and West but, on the contrary, the Europe of the future — a united Europe and a Europe where East and West are partners."

France's President Jacques Chirac, extolling the linkup to Kiev, said, "We extend our hand to a new partner who has shown a sensitivity to peace."

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said the signing symbolized that "conflict has been superseded by even closer cooperation."

Last week, Kuchma's prime minister, Pavlo Lazarenko, was forced to resign. He was blamed for sluggish reforms, especially in privatization.

Kuchma in May signed a friendship treaty with Yeltsin. Kuchma achieved the pact in part by warning Yeltsin he would push Ukraine into the Western camp if frayed relations were not mended.

US Defense Secretary William Cohen, in Madrid for the decision to expand NATO, was due to leave

after Wednesday's ceremony to attend the windup of a NATO military exercise in Ukraine.

The decision to hold NATO expansion to three Eastern and Central European countries stifled a move by France and a majority of the allies to invite Romania and Slovenia to join as well.

Chirac, who led the drive for a bigger expansion, said "France, for the moment, has conceded nothing." He referred to the open-door policy stressed in the alliance's windup communiqué, which could put Romania, Slovenia and other countries on a track to membership later on.

Slovenian and Romanian leaders expressed disappointment that their nations were not invited to join NATO this time.

"We expect to be included very soon, one year or perhaps two years from now," Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Drnovec told a news conference in Madrid.

Romanian President Emil Constantinescu said also pledged patience in pursuit of eventual NATO membership.

"I believe in a favorable result in the long term for Romania," Constantinescu said, as he departed his capital of Bucharest for Madrid.

WORLD

in brief

Russian security chief quits

The head of Russia's internal security troops, who commanded Russian forces during the Chechen War, announced yesterday that he was resigning for health reasons. Col. Gen. Anatoly Shkirko told a meeting of top commanders that a medical commission had found him to be only "partly suited" for service, according to a government press statement. "This is my own decision... I've submitted a request to be transferred to reserve duty," the report quoted Shkirko as saying.

Shkirko headed the military formations controlled by the Interior Ministry, which are responsible for internal security. The force has some 200,000 men. AP

Senator: China sought to influence US policy

The chairman of the US Senate investigation into political campaign fundraising said Tuesday China sought to influence US elections with illegal money. "Our investigation suggests the plan continues today," Sen. Fred Thompson said. China has repeatedly and angrily denied such allegations.

Meanwhile, a key figure in the investigation, who had refused for months to testify or provide some documents without immunity, made a last-minute offer. Democratic fundraiser John Huang is willing to testify about allegations he was a spy but still insists on immunity for testimony about fund raising.

"I think it is very important and I think it is encouraging," Thompson said of Huang's offer, but "serious questions" must first be resolved. Hung, a former Commerce Department official, is alleged to have helped transfer funds from large Asian companies to the Democrats. He is a former employee of the Lippo group, an Indonesia conglomerate. AP

First death in Albania multinational force

A 19-year-old soldier serving with an Italian-led multinational security force in Albania died yesterday when an explosive device he was handling went off. Defense Ministry officials said. The dead soldier, Corporal Diego Vaira from Fossano, Italy, was the first casualty from the 7,000-strong force. Three Italian military personnel were injured in the incident in a store tent at a field hospital near the southern Albanian port of Vlore.

Italian Defense Ministry undersecretary Massimo Bruti said the death was apparently not the result of an attack by armed Albanians or a stray bullet. He had no further details. Reuters

Brazil truck explosion kills 15

Two trucks carrying ammonia and diesel exploded in the northwestern Amazon, killing at least 15 people, a major TV network reported Tuesday. The trucks blew up Monday near the remote jungle town of Sapucaia, 2,500 kilometers northwest of Sao Paulo in Amazonas state. Globo TV reported.

The truck carrying ammonia stopped on a highway after one of its tires caught fire. The flames engulfed the vehicle, causing it and a nearby truck loaded with diesel to explode. Most of the 15 people killed in the blast were in a van passing near the explosion, Globo TV said. AP

After Barnacle Bill, Mars rover prepares to meet 'Yogi'

By MICHAEL MILLER

PASADENA, Calif. (Reuters) — Having tangled with the likes of "Barnacle Bill," the Mars rover Sojourner prepared yesterday to turn its attention to "Yogi" in its continuing quest to determine what Mars is made of and whether life ever existed on the Red Planet.

The little six-wheeled buggy's geological probes of "Barnacle Bill" — so named because it has little markings all over its surface — have already shown that far from being alien, Mars is a lot like Earth, much to the surprise of the scientific team gathered at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory here.

But they expect yesterday's robotic analysis to show that "Yogi" — which some scientists said looks like a bear — will be different again to "Barnacle Bill."

"From what we can see from the photographs, this is a totally different rock and probably with a somewhat different composition," said scientist Matthew Golombek.

The Sojourner had been originally scheduled to scan "Yogi" with its alpha proton X-ray spectrometer earlier in the mission, following the Pathfinder spacecraft's landing in the Ares Vallis basin of Mars last Friday.

But the initial photographs from the lander craft showed the front of the rock was sitting in a hollow, perhaps formed when it was deposited there, either by a flood or being blasted from a nearby volcanic eruption millions or bil-

lions of years ago.

This, explained Golombek at a media briefing, could mean that if the rover was to venture to that part of the rock it might slide into the hollow and bump its solar panels against the rock, depriving its batteries of valuable energy from the sun.

So the Sojourner spent much of Tuesday taking high resolution, close-up pictures of "Yogi" to determine where it should place its spectrometer against the rock, where it would bombard the surface with protons.

Based on what the probe discovered, scientists hope to be able to determine the rock's composition. Instructions were to be sent to the microwave-oven-sized rover in the early hours yesterday telling it where to take its measurement, probably at the side of the rock where there did not appear to be a depression, Golombek said.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory remained charged with excitement as Mars continued to surprise the mission scientists.

Not only did the analysis of "Barnacle Bill" show that Mars was more similar to the Earth than even the moon, it went a long way toward proving that a meteorite believed to have come from Mars and thought to contain fossil evidence of ancient life did indeed come from the Red Planet.

"Barnacle Bill," said Hap McSweeney of the University of Tennessee, a participating scientist in the Pathfinder science project,

was probably one-third quartz in composition because of the amount of silica it contained.

"I was just floored when it came out silica, and I am still struggling with what the implications are. This is more like Earth than our own moon, which has no quartz on it," he said.

The rover's analysis also revealed the rock's "chemical fingerprints," which McSweeney said were identical to the 12 meteorites found on Earth that scientists believed originated on Mars billions of years ago.

"So now we can say we have analyzed 13 Martian rocks," he said during a press briefing, adding that one of them was the meteorite designated ALH84001 and discovered in Alaska that has been found to contain organic molecules and iron mineral compounds commonly associated with microscopic organisms.

Meanwhile, interest in the Mars mission continued to capture public attention, not only in newspapers, radio and television worldwide, but on the Internet, with 220 million "hits" being recorded on the Pathfinder's three Web pages from the July 4 landing to Tuesday morning, according to JPL web manager Rich Pavlovski.

"It's an incredible response. I doubt if there's a busier Web page in the world right now," he said. The Web pages can be accessed at <http://mpfwww.jpl.nasa.gov> or <http://www.entertainment.digital.com/mars/jpl> or <http://mars.sgi.com>.

Royals, officials flee Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) — Almost a dozen members of Cambodia's royal family left the country on evacuation and special flights yesterday, three days after the ouster of Prince Norodom Ranariddh as first prime minister, witnesses said.

Ranariddh's sister, Princess Bopha Devi, and his son, Prince Norodom Chakravuth, were the most prominent members of the royal family to leave.

The Princess was believed to have been on a flight to Bangkok while Chakravuth left on a later flight to Singapore.

Nine other members of the family, as well as senior officials from Ranariddh's royalist FUNCINPEC party and his cabinet, took flights out of the country to Singapore and Bangkok, the witnesses said.

The airport was heavily guarded by forces loyal to Cambodia's powerful second premier, Hun Sen, but no attempts were made to stop the family members or the party officials from leaving, the witnesses said.

Officials at the royal palace in Phnom Penh were not immediately available for comment.

Hun Sen ousted Ranariddh from power on

Sunday after a weekend of heavy fighting between forces loyal to the two premiers in Phnom Penh.

Ranariddh left the country on Friday, the eve of the fighting, for France.

Meanwhile, US-based Human Rights Watch yesterday urged the international community to help prevent any purge of supporters of ousted Cambodian premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

"Human Rights Watch...called on the international community to unequivocally condemn the coup in Cambodia on Saturday by Cambodian People's Party (CPP) leader and co-Prime Minister Hun Sen...and to take all necessary measures to prevent the CPP from carrying out a massive purge of its opponents," the organization said in a statement in Bangkok.

A senior official in Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC party, Ho Sok, was arrested by Hun Sen's troops on Monday and later shot dead, although it was not immediately clear who had killed him.

"Other reports indicate that some 20 FUNCINPEC members were arrested in Prey Veng.

The publisher of a newspaper called Sangkro Kher that had been critical of the CPP has disappeared; human rights monitors in Phnom Penh fear he may be in custody," New York-based Human Rights Watch said.

It said the FUNCINPEC police commissioner in Battambang in northwestern Cambodia was arrested, along with 12 of his bodyguards.

Human Rights Watch/Asia said anyone linked to FUNCINPEC or the other two opposition parties appeared to be in danger, as did anyone who had publicly criticized the CPP.

"Hun Sen and the CPP must be held fully responsible for the human rights abuses," said Sidney Jones, executive director of Human Rights Watch/Asia. Jones called on Cambodia's donors, investors and neighbors to help them in danger.

Donor countries pledged \$450 million in aid to the Cambodian government last week in Paris.

In a separate statement issued on Tuesday, Amnesty International said more than 50 people were currently in hiding or in need of protection in Cambodia.

Indians suspect Sikh militants in fatal train blast

BHATINDA, India (AP) — Police raided the hideouts of Sikh separatists in Punjab yesterday to look for clues in the bombing of a train that killed 36 passengers and injured 70 others.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Tuesday's blast near the Punjab province town of Bhatinda, 275 kilometers northwest of New Delhi. Punjab was the scene of a 10-year secessionist revolt by Sikh militants who wanted to carve out an independent homeland. The rebellion was crushed in the early 1990s,

but sporadic violence continues.

State police chief Poonam Chand Dogra refused to give details of the raids, saying it could prejudice the investigation. He said police are working on various theories.

Dogra said the bomb could have been placed in the train when it stopped for seven minutes after it

left a small railroad station near Bhatinda. The train had halted there to give way to another express, he said in an interview.

The blast occurred soon after the five-car Ganganagar-Ambala commuter train with 500 people on board left Bhuchu, 15 kilometers east of Bhatinda, he said.

Train guard Surjeet Singh said the train was moving slowly when the blast occurred.

Thousands of people thronged the Bhatinda District Hospital, hoping that their loved ones had escaped the blast.

Twenty persons were in critical condition at the hospital.

Saddam slays Shi'ite pilgrims

CAIRO (AP) — Saddam Hussein's elite Republican Guards killed at least 109 Shi'ite Muslim pilgrims in clashes near the holy city of Karbala, an opposition group said Tuesday.

The Iran-based Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq said the deaths occurred late last month as Iraqi Shi'ites were trying to make their way to the shrine of the Shi'ite Imam Hussein in Karbala.

The group said the guard units blocked the pilgrims' way to Karbala, 100 kilometers south of Baghdad. It said the troops then opened fire on the pilgrims when they tried to sneak to the shrine through date-palm plantations around the city.

There was no explanation for why the guards tried to block the pilgrims from reaching the holy city on June 25, which marked the 40th day after the anniversary of the death of Hussein.

Hussein, a grandson of Islam's

Prophet Mohammed, was killed by rival Muslim forces in the year 680.

The Iraqi government usually does not comment on charges from opposition groups, and there was no way to get independent confirmation of the allegations.

The Shi'ites, who make up a majority of Iraq's 21 million people, have long had a tense relationship with Saddam's regime, which is dominated by members of the Sunni sect.

An uprising by Shi'ites in southern Iraq after the Gulf War was brutally put down by Saddam's Republican Guards. Thousands of Shi'ites were killed, prompting the US and its Western allies to set up a "no-fly zone" over the South to protect the Shi'ites.

At least 100 Shi'ites died trying to get into Karbala on foot and that dozens were wounded. Nine other pilgrims were killed in neighboring Hilla province when they tried to leave to Karbala.

Israel Airports Authority REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR AIRPORT FIRE FIGHTING PERSONNEL

The Israel Airport Authority is considering the acquisition of new protective clothing (coat and trousers) for its fire fighting personnel.

Suppliers/manufacturers who are NFPA and EN469 approved and have at least 5 years experience in the field of protective clothing for fire fighting personnel and meet the rest of the RFI requirements are invited to apply in writing to:

Purchasing Department, Israel Airports Authority, P.O.B. 7, Ben Gurion Int'l Airport 70100 Israel, no later than 7.8.1997.

The RFI documents are obtainable at the purchasing department office at Ben Gurion Int'l Airport, main terminal, second floor, room 233, (fax: 972-9-6711296) till 24.7.1997.

Reply should include details of manufacturers experience, range and specifications of products and lists of airports which said products are in use.

Suppliers/manufacturers who are found suitable for I.A.A's requirement will be requested to provide samples of clothing for test and evaluation.

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A taxing agenda

Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman enters his new job with a long list of tasks awaiting him. Among the items competing for his attention are the need for an almost immediate NIS 600 million budget cut; requests for more funding from the health and defense sectors; moving forward the Netanyahu government's ambitious privatization plans; demonopolization: tackling the trade and current account deficits; negotiating new public-sector wage agreements; and last, but not least, beginning to work on the 1998 budget.

While he is attending to these matters, the finance minister would also do well to give due consideration to the annual report on taxation released this week by the State Revenues Administration. The report, based on 1996 figures, reveals a disturbingly distorted tax system, riddled with exemptions and discounts, and based on a surprisingly small tax base relative to the population.

According to the report's findings, as much as 47% of income earners in Israel fall below the lowest tax rung and therefore pay no income tax. At the other end of the scale, 5.4% of income earners are in the highest tax bracket and they pay 53.4% of all income tax collected. The sum total of current exemptions and discounts totals NIS 15.1 billion, or 13 percent of all tax revenues. The average monthly wage in the country is NIS 5,595, but only 40% of the population earned more than this, with the worst-paid tenth of the labor force taking home only NIS 467 at the end of the month.

The report's authors are quick to add that these statistics should not be used to draw conclusions about living standards in Israel. The findings refer solely to taxable earned income, and do not take into account National Insurance Institute transfer payments, tax-exempt income and what are called "transfers-in-kind" such as health and educational benefits. Transfer payments, both direct and in kind, do raise the living standards of the lowest percentiles of income earners. Nevertheless, the report raises serious questions regarding the distribution of earned income and the tax burden.

The taxation system is no minor matter in determining a nation's wealth. Running a modern state requires considerable revenues which can only be raised through taxation. On the other hand, the way in which the tax burden is distributed, as well as its absolute weight, can have a considerable effect on employment and work incentives. The types of products and activities taxed can also significantly affect the relative success and failure of economic sectors and the overall investment and savings rates.

Unfortunately, Israel's taxation system appears to have been determined on an ad-hoc basis in the early years of the state, based on the relative political strengths of different sectors. A succession of highly competent economists have, over the years, proposed complete overhauls of the tax system along rational lines which would encourage greater economic growth, but such proposals inevitably run into the opposition of entrenched political interests. Whatever improvements have occurred – and there have been some – have been of an incremental nature.

A well-designed tax system should contain at least three main features: as low a tax burden as possible, rationality, and a fair distribution of the burden. In Israel, determining a fair distribution of the tax burden is difficult due to the abnormal situation, depicted by the State Revenues Administration report, in which 47% of wage-earners fall below the minimal taxable income level – an anomaly in what is considered to be a highly educated and skilled work force. Steps which can be taken include efforts to close off many of the loopholes and exemptions in the taxation system. According to Economics and State Revenues director Tsipi Gal-Yam, a serious reduction in such exemptions would enable reducing the 50% tax bracket to 40%, lowering the company tax rate from 36% to 29% and VAT from 17% to 16%. All of these reductions would go a long way toward improving economic conditions and employment opportunities.

There are a host of other tax reforms which must also be implemented, including expanding tax brackets to moderate the marginal tax rates paid by middle-income earners; integrating the income, NII and health taxes to ensure the progressive nature of the tax system; decreasing purchase taxes on durable goods, which includes continuing the reform of vehicle and fuel taxes; and abolishing a myriad of anachronistic and difficult-to-collect taxes. As the recent Peruvian experience has shown, the fewer the taxes levied, the larger the actual amount collected.

The issue of tax reform in Israel is long overdue and highly complex. One hopes the appointment of Ne'eman as finance minister will enable the subject to receive the attention it deserves at the highest levels of decision-making – after all, Ne'eman brings to the job decades of experience as one of the country's leading experts in tax law.



An American vassal?

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

Less than a week ago, NASA experts worked frantically to sort out a communications hitch across 500 million kilometers between Earth and their buggy, Sojourner. The six-wheeled buggy was proving reluctant to roll its wheels onto the red dust of Mars.

But even this magnitude of problem was pale in comparison with the complex crossing of wires involved in our premier's maneuverings to appoint a finance minister.

The first person to explode over the airwaves a day after the prize went to Ya'acov Ne'eman was Shimon Shiffer, the top-rated political reporter of Yedioth Aharonot.

Shiffer declared on Army Radio that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was just one of the messengers America had used to pressure Netanyahu not to include Ariel Sharon in his "kitchenette." Mordechai, he said, was only too happy to play along, fearing that once Sharon, with his vast military experience, became part of the "in" group, he himself would be overshadowed.

Mordechai held secret conversations on this matter with Ne'eman and Netanyahu, as well as with Martin Indyk, the outgoing US ambassador.

Indyk's role, particularly his involvement in transmitting messages from Washington (designed to block Sharon securing a seat in the key "kitchen cabinet" needs further scrutiny," Shiffer said.

Commented the startled radio interviewer, "Menachem Begin once told a US ambassador: 'We're not a vassal state.' Are you saying we are?"

Replied Shiffer: "I have no doubt whatsoever that Indyk played a very, very important role during this last political crisis.... Certainly there is increasing evidence that he passed on messages to all concerned. Put simply, he stressed the US's opposition to Sharon being part of Israel's key defense and political unit. There's no doubt about it," Shiffer concluded.

The repercussions of this accusation led Indyk to call Sharon with a denial. Responded Sharon, with a sardonic laugh: "Of course not! Who could imagine the greatest democracy in the world intervening in the internal affairs of the

only democracy in the Middle East – particularly in a minor matter like choosing a finance minister?"

A leading government official, an expert on Israel-US relations, told the writers of this column: "It's no secret that the US has in the past been involved in influencing policy matters in Israel. Right now, however, the situation

is that Washington is treating Israel like a banana republic.

"How else can you interpret the decision taken by the US administration to reject Netanyahu's decision to appoint Dore Gold as Israel's Washington ambassador? The US insisted that their nominee, Zalman Shoval, be chosen. Certain that Washington's diktat would be obeyed, Indyk held a celebration dinner party for Shoval.

"I don't remember any other case in Israeli history that such a thing has been attempted or heeded in Jerusalem. It was only because of the table-thumping determination of Elihu Ben-Elissar – including flying back to Israel to fight to keep his job – that the plan to replace him with Shoval fell through." Shiffer's remarks evoked an indignant reaction from a US embassy spokesman, who said it was totally untrue that either Martin Indyk or Washington had tried to prevent the appointment of Sharon as finance minister.

"The US has never interfered in Israeli domestic affairs, and didn't do so on this occasion," he said.

The embassy's protestations would be more convincing were it not for the blatant interference in Israeli domestic affairs by President Clinton during last year's elections. Repeatedly, openly and publicly, he pressured Israelis to return Shimon Peres as prime minister to "save the peace process."

To ensure the message got through, Clinton flew all the way to Sharm-e-Sheikh in March last year to star in an International Peace Summit.

This desert winging was aimed at boosting Peres's "peace policy," which had cost the country over 200 "victims of peace."

No flagrant policy of interference in Israeli domestic policy could be conducted by the White House without the support and advice of its ambassador in Israel.

During the elections, in accordance with Clinton's policy, Indyk plunged into our heated election battle, in support of Peres. As a result, relations between the ambassador and Netanyahu after the surprise election result were cool.

It took an unprecedented five visits by Netanyahu to the White House over a 10-month spell for the US administration to get the message that the new Israeli premier wasn't such a bad fellow after all.

Unhappily, however, the White House interpreted Netanyahu's approach as inviting US intervention in Israeli affairs. Whether or not this was the premier's conscious agenda is irrelevant; what is important is the effect it had in the US.

To aid the campaign of American interference in Israeli affairs, the *New York Times*, as if on cue, last week vigorously attacked Netanyahu's plan – to appoint "the destructive former defense sinner Ariel Sharon" to a major government post.

In answer, Sharon told Fox TV: "Was I being 'destructive' in the past, when I eliminated Arab Palestinian terrorism in Gaza, in Israel itself, and in Lebanon?"

Whether Indyk has interfered in internal Israeli matters may be clarified when he appears on oath before a Senate committee prior to assuming his new post as assistant secretary of state for the Middle East.

Certainly US interference became easier once there was no longer a Menachem Begin ready to challenge Big Brother across the Atlantic with the defiant cry: "We are not a vassal state."

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israel Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

Screen therapy

DOUGLAS HUSHKOFF

Is the Internet a source of psychological problems, or does it provide a cure?

For every book or article I read about the detrimental effects of spending time online, I see another that lists Web sites for people seeking psychological counseling.

There has been a lot of speculation about the effect of computers and the Internet on the psyche, but not a lot of substantive research.

While some psychologists have reported treating people suffering from "Internet Addiction," so far these cases would have to count as anecdotal evidence.

Usually, these people are using the Internet as a way of avoiding other troubles in their lives, like bad marriage, a physical problem or social isolation.

If a person has no one to talk to at home, at work or in town, it's no wonder that he might get addicted to the Internet.

While we can all lament the fact that many young people would rather socialize on the Internet than in "real life," Americans have only themselves and their elected officials to blame for what led them to this sorry state.

Bad urban planning, budget cuts for civic activities and the closing of public parks has effectively de-socialized American communities.

At a time when playing in the street might mean joining a gang, the Internet might be one of the only safe places left to make friends. If anything, interactive media is providing remedial help for people who have no other form of interaction available.

The other main accusation made against Internet users is that they run the risk of fracturing their own sense of self by developing alternative, online personas.

A few books have emerged

Cyber-counseling – Is it for real?

claiming that if people present themselves online as someone they are not – a man creating and playing the character of a little girl, for example – an identity crisis will ensue.

I'm not entirely convinced that such role playing isn't healthy.

The Internet might be much more akin to a public dream space. Role playing is a common form of social therapy. Rather than repressing our behaviors in the ether, we should invite even more daring forms of play within safely contained environments.

Instead of blaming the Internet for eliciting perverse behaviors, we might look at what sorts of social repression in daily life lead people to vent their alter egos online.

If the brassy foreman at the loading dock wants to use a Little Orphan Annie avatar (character picture) to represent himself in an online discussion room, he's obviously experiencing and expressing a part of himself he may need to get in touch with. As long as he's not doing it to seduce children, let's not stand in his way.

I believe the Internet is psychologically curative. Mere participation in the right sorts of activities and conversations force a level of social intimacy and self-observation that teaches people about themselves and their ability to maintain relationships.

BUT many psychologists have decided to take this even further. An increasing number of psychological counseling sites have appeared on the Web and within subscription services like America Online.

Some sites are simple peer-to-peer counseling groups on issues ranging from eating disorders and agoraphobia to cancer and mourning. Others are hosted by professional therapists, who use private chat rooms for "group therapy." Their clients pay.

Many psychologists even accept private patients whom they never meet in real life, but simply counsel on one-on-one chats.

Sites like "Cyber Counseling Interactive Network" offer the services of licensed therapists for about the same rate as live striptease sites – about \$2 or \$3 per minute. I doubt they are any more curative.

These therapists claim they can tell almost as much about a patient from his words as they could from being with him in person. Frankly, I think that claim is hard to back up.

The Internet itself is a form of social and psychological therapy. But unless you live in the Antarctic, seeking professional counseling online is both avoidant and redundant.

(New York Times)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE TEMPLE MOUNT

Sir, – On June 25, I was guiding a group of American Christians on the Temple Mount and began to explain the history of the Second Temple period. The tour leader took out a sketch of the Second Temple and I proceeded to explain a little about its construction and location.

We were standing a the time about 30 meters north of the Dome of the Rock. We were then approached by one of the Wakf people who demanded to see the sketch. He then took it and began to confiscate any other sketches which were in the group. He

asked who the guide was and when I identified myself, he began to berate me and said that the sketches were not allowed on the Temple Mount. He went into a nearby office and returned a few moments later with another man who, I assumed, was also from the Wakf. He came to me and said that these were not allowed and that the 144 dunams on the Mount were Moslem territory. He also said that I was lucky that a member of Hamas had not seen them, or else there would have been violence.

The anger in me was building.

But I kept my cool and just nodded my head and apologized. What was I supposed to do in front of a group of tourists? He handed back the sketches and told me not to do it again, or I would be thrown off. The tour leader was furious. I was furious. Am I supposed to change history to please the Wakf? Do I need to be abused and scolded like an ignorant child in front of my group? I mean, whose city is this anyway?

RONNIE COHEN
(Licensed Tour Guide)
Jerusalem.

PLANNING WAR

Sir, – Incitement is an interesting word. I would like to quote some direct interviews with leading Moslem and Palestinian figures to judge whether there really is peace or even a peace process with Moslems and Palestinians who are influenced by these spokespersons.

"Israel is attempting to obstruct peace. If Israel continues to succeed in this approach, then she is destroying the peace process. The only option remaining for us will be an alternative option... war. Allow me to say that it takes only one side to start a war. At the end of the path on which Israel is proceeding, a declaration of war awaits." – PA

Minister for Jerusalem Affairs Faisal Husseini in a newspaper interview (*Al-Jihad*, May 18).

"The Zionist entity exists on seized land. The Jews remain enemies because they expropriate lands, build settlements and pay high sums to buy properties. They are the greatest enemies of us Moslems." – PA Mufti Ikrama Sabri in a newspaper interview (*The New York Times*, May 18).

"The struggle we are waging is an ideological struggle and the question is: where has the Islamic land of Palestine gone? Where are Haifa and Jaffa, Lod and Ramle, Acre, Safed and Tiberias? Where are Hebron and Jerusalem?" –

Yousef Abu Sneh, preacher at Al-Aksa Mosque, in a Friday sermon (*Voice of Palestine*, May 23).

"It is our right to ban the sale of land [by Arabs to Jews] in Lod and Ramle, and other cities inside the 1948 borders." – PA Justice Minister Fehil Abu Medein, explaining that the death penalty imposed on Arabs who sell land to Jews will be applied to Israeli Arabs as well (Agence France Presse, May 27).

With each passing day and each new statement, we realize that there can be no peace when the Arabs plan war.

TOBY WILLIG
Jerusalem.

NETANYAHU'S SUPPORT

Sir, – In the Knesset debate on the government's performance during the last year, the opposition critics focused largely on the prime minister's failures, especially regarding the peace process. They were wrong, wrong, wrong. Mr. Netanyahu has succeeded – succeeded in countering the Oslo accords and in bringing a halt to the process. It was for this that he was elected.

Anyone who listens to phone-in programs on the radio will be aware that he still enjoys large and fanatic support – note the latest US assessment that he would be

relected if elections were to be held now. His policies satisfy his supporters' hatred and distrust of the Arabs and the left, and his attacks on the media echo their own frustrations and need to find scapegoats to blame for the deteriorating situation.

This constituency does not care that the standards of government morality have plunged to new depths. They never thought that Israel could afford morality – which is for *yefei nefesh* (beautiful souls) only. "We voted for Netanyahu," they say, "anyone who doesn't like it can get out."

Thus, their former idols – Levy, Livnat, Meridor and company – must now be condemned as disloyal. It has always been clear that there can be no peace process on terms acceptable to the Israeli right, that Netanyahu was making empty election promises, knowing them to be empty. This was clear to those who elected him and they love him for defying the world in general and the Arab world in particular.

AMIEL SCHOTZ
Beersheba.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Hirofumi Nakajima of Japan and Ed 'The Animal' Krachie of New York City (you can guess which is which) enjoy a nosh at the 82nd annual Fourth of July Hotdog Eating Contest in Brooklyn. The skinny Nakajima made minced meat of the local hero, outeating him 24.5 hotdogs to 22 in a matter of 12 minutes, breaking his own world record.

POSTSCRIPT

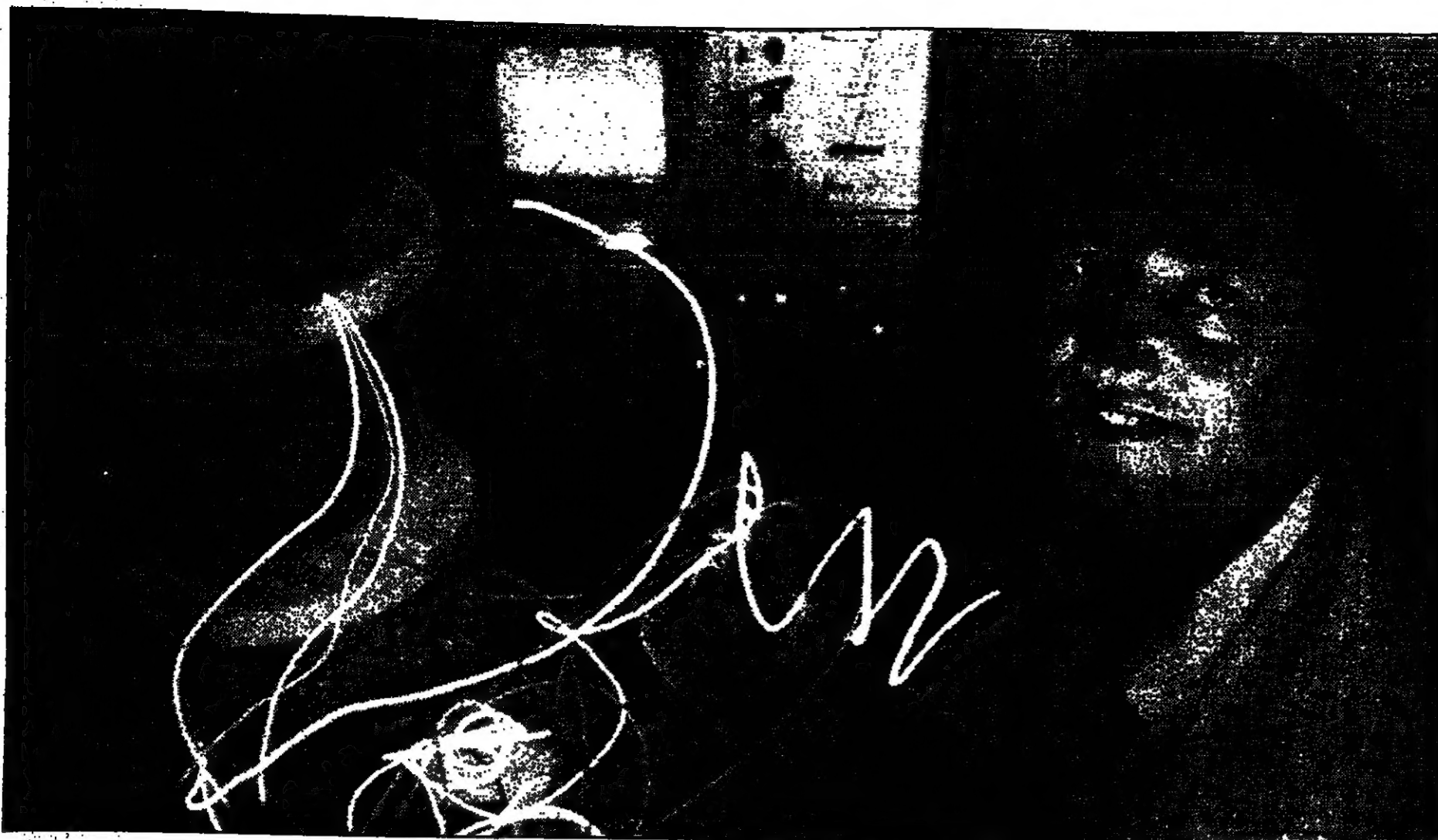
SOMEONE FROM THE US arrived for an appointment in Jerusalem. Upon arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport, and being rather ignorant about Israel, he asked when the next flight to Jerusalem was. He was told it would be 10 a.m. the following day.

So he took a cab to Tel Aviv, stayed there at a hotel and the following day took another taxi back to the airport, flew in to Jerusalem, and had the meeting. During the meeting he told what had happened and the people

where too embarrassed to tell him about the country's size. So he stayed at a Jerusalem hotel, and flew back the next day to Tel Aviv, and from there to the US.

Someday he'll find out, and boy is he gonna be mad!

הכזמן האחרון



An incubator graduate: Elam's Yoel Ganor with the electroluminescent fiber developed by his company.

(Ariel Jeronimidis)

Hothouses for success

Edible eating utensils, smart cards and fruit-picking robots are just a few of the products hatched in technology incubators around the country, Nicky Blackburn reports

Former Muscovite Josef Zinman was 78 when he first approached the Haifa-based Elam incubator with a plan for a system that would purify materials used in the diamond industry.

Speaking only Russian and barely able to communicate the complexity of his idea, his chances elsewhere would have been zero at his advanced age. But the incubator's management team researched the idea and discovered that while his product would have no practical use in diamond manufacturing, it could serve a vital role in the semiconductor industry.

That was in 1991. Today Zinman, who still puts in an eight-hour day, is 84 and has founded his own company, Sizary Materials Purification Ltd. The company has \$5 million in investments from capital funds in Israel and the US, and anticipates another \$3m. Located in the Tefen industrial park, it employs 16 people, and has developed a non-chemical process that removes impurities from the silicon wafers used to make computer chips.

At present, Sizary is carrying out product testing for Mitsubishi Silicon America in the US, and next year should set up trials for two more international companies. Ilya Roitman, president and co-founder of Sizary, said he anticipates sales of \$1m. next year, \$5m. in 1999, and \$20m. in 2000.

Zinman's story is not unusual for the incubator program. Since its inception in 1991, 580 projects have been accepted into the program, in areas ranging from agriculture and health care to computers, electronics, biotechnology and cosmetics. Inventions are imaginative and diverse — edible eating utensils, robots that pick fruit, bone-injection guns and liquid heaters.

Though it's too early to gauge the long-term effects of the incubators, in the short term things look promising. Over 300 projects have already graduated from the program. Fifty-six percent of them are independent companies. Of these, 40% have found commercial investments and 20% are in negotiations or are living off sales. That leaves a failure rate of 40%. This may sound high, but compared to the US, where the failure rate after three years is 90%, the figure is impressive.

"People from all over the world — even America — are coming to study our system," says program manager and founder Rina Pridor. According to Pridor, the program was set up to fill a gap in Israeli R&D. While entrepreneurs with advanced ideas were given enormous support, less well-developed ideas were being abandoned because investors weren't prepared to take the risk. "We didn't want the good ideas to disappear, so the government decided to take this risk," says Pridor.

It was no coincidence, however, that the program began at the same time as the huge immigration wave from the former Soviet Union. An unprecedented number of highly skilled scientists, engineers and technicians flooded in, bringing with them many brilliant ideas but little knowledge of new technology or the free-market economy.

The incubator program requires that at least 50% of incubator staff be Russian immigrants. In practice, this figure is closer to 70%.

The program, which is supported by the Office of the Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, started small — 50 projects with funding of \$1 million. There are now 213 projects in 26 incubators across the country from Karmiel to Dimona, and a total of \$80 million has been invested.

Incubators are non-profit organizations, and are set up under the auspices of local authorities, business or research institutes. Some are a mixture of all three. High-caliber volunteers from industry, business and academia help advise prospective entrepreneurs.

Each incubator has 10 to 20 projects on the go at a time, and new ones join every year. Each project receives a two-year grant of up to \$340,000, and entrepreneurs are given premises, tools, guidance, administrative aid and even English or Hebrew lessons if necessary. "We do everything from hand holding to finding investors and strategic partners," says Lesley Anne Rubenstein, executive director of the Beersheba incubator, the Initiative Center of the Negev (ICN).

In return, the innovators develop a prototype of their idea. After two years, projects leave the incubator and continue alone, usually mobilizing government or private support to reach the next stage. While Pridor recognizes that sophisticated products take longer than two years to develop, she says: "We give them a chance to stand on their feet."

The incubators do not, however, offer easy cash. "We offer a sweet carrot, but there's a very hard stick," admits Pridor. "Just because you get approval, doesn't mean you can do whatever you want. You have to accept our discipline. We give timeframes, demand reports, restrict budgets. If there's a difference of opinion, incubator management resolves it. This isn't easy for often-brilliant inventors who don't take orders or advice readily. We have to push them toward the nearest goal. They may have nine brilliant ideas and one exciting one, but if this one is the most marketable then they have to concentrate on that first."

"Engineers don't always consider the end users," agrees Rubenstein. "They forget to take things out to the market because they want to add more functions. They don't stop to find out if people actually want these extra buttons."

ONE OF the incubator program's recent successes is Elam Ltd., a company which graduated from the Har Hotzvim incubator in Jerusalem last year, and expects sales of \$3 million by the end of the year. Elam has developed a revolutionary electroluminescent (EL) fiber, called Livewire, which looks like a cable and has the same versatility. It can be used in a wide range of applications from hazard lighting to safety jackets, signs and Christmas decorations. In two years, the company expects to be making over \$10 million a year.

Livewire was the brainchild of two Russian scientists, both doctors in semiconductor physics. On arrival in Israel, they took jobs as cleaners to make ends meet, but in 1992, their proposal for the EL fiber was accepted. In 1994, Inventech Investment Company and a private US investor funneled \$500,000 into the project. Two years later, another \$3 million investment was made.

Elam's stay at Har Hotzvim was particularly beneficial because it enjoyed the support of leading firms like Intel and AVX, which are housed in the same high-tech park.

"Our initial prototype was developed on Intel equipment," says Yoel Ganor, Elam's operations manager. It is no surprise, then, that

many Elam staff worked at Intel before joining the company. "The incubator made it easier to find investors and to link up with the chief scientist," says Ganor. "We learned how to present ourselves and draw up a business plan."

"I see people who couldn't succeed without us. I watch as they develop an idea into a company within two to three years."

There are plenty of other success stories.

Elementrix Technologies Ltd., a graduate of the Elam Technology incubator (which was set up by Elron Electronics Industries and has now merged with the Technion's incubator in Haifa), was established to commercialize a breakthrough in the field of data encryption. The idea came from

Eli Yanovsky, a stubborn entrepreneur who lobbied industrial firms and venture-capital funds for five years before finally reaching an agreement with Elam. Yanovsky has now left, but Elementrix has become a subsidiary of Elron. The company has nearly completed its product line and sales are scheduled to begin soon.

Nanomat left the Technion incubator at the start of the year to open a plant in Yokne'am. The company, which was set up in 1991, develops small linear motors that can be used in the auto, textile and computer industries. It is now negotiating several joint-venture agreements with international companies.

Adi Toister, Nanomat's controller, says the company's invention was more accurate, powerful and reliable than competing products. Last year the company saw sales of \$300,000. This year the figure is expected to rise to \$1.5 million, but more impressively Toister says he expects sales in 2000 to reach at least \$100 million.

Other successes include Di-Pharm Ltd., Nanonics Ltd. and Levitech Software Systems, all of which have left incubators to form promising companies.

In June, Pridor announced that in the next few years, the incubators would be reduced from 26 to about 20, mostly through mergers. The two main reasons are declining

Russian immigration, and a leveling off of ideas. When the incubator program began it received thousands of ideas a year. Over the past three years that figure has stabilized at around 100 a year.

Pridor insists that this is not a failure on the part of the program. "In the past we received many applications which weren't workable. They were theoretical essays rather than business ideas. Today we get less, but the quality is higher."

BUT NOT everyone believes incubators are good for business. Some critics complain that there are too many start-up companies diverting resources from larger companies with more potential.

Pridor maintains that just the opposite is true. "People involved in the incubator program often wouldn't have had a chance to be absorbed or employed elsewhere," she says.

"No one else would look at these proposals," agrees Rubenstein, waving a recent two-page application. "Venture capitalists want big business plans with figures and market predictions. They want projects close to capitalization in sexy fields like biomedicine, medicine, Internet and Intranet. They aren't risk oriented."

"I see people who couldn't succeed without us. I watch as they develop an idea into a company within two to three years. How many start-ups can boast that?"

She adds that the incubators also help create exports and jobs (most projects employ about five people), which in turn helps the economy.

"The program definitely gives Israel's high-tech industry a head start," says Uzia Galil, chairman and CEO of Elron. "By allowing entrepreneurs to develop their ideas, it gives the industry a chance to see what they have to offer."

Novelty in the Negev

Desert sand swirls down the streets as you enter Beersheba, and a cloud of smog hangs over the city. The surrounding hillsides and desert are for the most part empty. But in the heart of the city, a small, brightly lit building houses a high-tech company.

It's Beersheba, the home to one of Israel's first incubators, the Initiative Center of the Negev (ICN). In the seven years it has been operating, 30 companies and 150 people have passed through its doors. The incubator was founded by a US businessman who had set up a high-tech company in New York and was looking for a place to move it to Israel. At the time, in the late 1980s, there were few places in the Negev where a high-tech company could be set up.

He convinced the head of Lesley Anne Rubenstein, a scientist who had been trying to start her own business, to join him. Together they set up the incubator. So far, three other businesses have provided seed capital of \$144,000.

They set up shop near the university in a building constructed in 1979 to accommodate high-tech companies. The building had planned 10 small buildings, but stopped after the first one became a success. By 1990, the building had become a white elephant.

Shortly after Beersheba's private initiative, the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) set up Israel's official incubator program. ICN soon joined forces with the OCS, and for the first few years ran two programs simultaneously: the first for start-ups that didn't want to go through usual government procedures, the second for the OCS program.

"The only twist is that the company is owned by a non-profit organization, and any profits are reinvested in the incubator," Rubenstein says.

Over the years, ICN companies have achieved considerable commercial success. One of the first to join was Fortress Ltd., which has developed encrypted software and hardware to safeguard encrypted data, even over the Internet.

Fortress, which employs 15 engineers, began selling in 1994 and is now profitable. It has

licensed its technology to SGS Thomson and Motorola. Fortness's managing director Ram Ganot says the company has begun selling its technology to new customers, including several British universities and the Egged bus company.

Zenotics R&D Ltd. joined ICN in January 1993, and moved to Ramle 18 months ago. Zenotics has formed a partnership with a large Israeli concern to develop two ideas — a production process for zeolite ZSM-5 and a revolutionary catalytic converter for the automotive and chemical industries, which reduces exhaust fumes to zero.

"The company was the brainchild of high-school dropout Meir Fibousi, who came up with an idea for developing an industrial filter while working in the US. Along the way, the filter became a catalyst converter and Fibousi, who couldn't afford the zeolite needed to carry out his experiments, developed a method of synthesizing zeolite cheaply."

The company, which has received capital of nearly \$1 million, now hopes to establish a factory in Ramat Hovav.

Ultrafine, a company which manufactures conductive coatings and metal powders for battery applications, was set up by Dr. Ernst Khassia, a Russian who made aliyah in 1988. He approached ICN, and today, after over three years in the incubator, Ultrafine is setting up a pilot plant in Kfar Sava.

ICN's newest arrival, Negev Exotics Ltd., uses a high-tech extraction process to make liqueurs, ice cream, candy, wine, juice and cosmetics from a wild fruit called the mara grown in Australia and South Africa.

A team of Israeli scientists, led by Prof. Joseph Mizrahi, developed a strain of mara which flourishes in the Negev, and the company has raised a first round of financing.

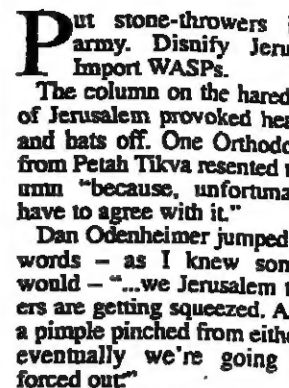
Rubenstein has ambitious plans for the future. She wants to set up a for-profit incubator, which will be affiliated with ICN and located in Omer Park in the Negev. "Companies will have more independence. They will still save money by sharing space," says Rubenstein.

Nicky Blackburn

Not Page One

Sez You! Jerusalem solutions

By Sam Orbaum



Put stone-throwers in the army. Dismiss Jerusalem. Import WASPs.

The column on the hardening of Jerusalem provoked heat, hate and hats off. One Orthodox man from Petah Tikva resented the column "because, unfortunately, I have to agree with it."

Dan Odenheimer jumped on my words — as I knew somebody would — "...we Jerusalem taxpayers are getting squeezed. And like a pimple pinched from either side, eventually we're going to be forced out."

"I thought it a bit odd," he writes, "that you compared yourself to pus, until I reread your article and realized just how obnoxious were your thoughts. But I still think it's unfair to include the rest of the Jerusalem taxpayers in your simile."

"Make a law like in China: one child only for each family, and give Jerusalem an additional name: 'The Chinatown of the Middle East.'" — Zoltan Green, Tel Aviv.

On the other side of that coin is this, from Burt Ravins:

"That haredim observe more commandments than you or I, especially that to 'be fruitful and multiply,' they are better Jews than we are. That they do not send their kids to national service they are worse Jews than we are.... Please do not refer to them as if they were a 'tertium quid' in the composition of Jerusalem."

She brings up another sticky Jerusalem issue: "It would be wonderful if 'Non-Jewish' [i.e. Arab] Jerusalemites who married a 'Non-Jewish' person from, oh, let's say, Ramallah, was able to automatically live together in Jerusalem. I can only imagine the column you would write if the Ministry of Interior told you that your folks in Ra'anana or Haifa would have to apply for a special permit to live with you. I can only imagine the second column you would write when you discovered that these requests for 'family reunification' are almost always turned down."

Award one point to Allison. You're right: it's a sneaky, immoral way of throwing out the city's Arab population.

"I like many of my 'non-Jewish' friends, also long for the day when I can walk down Salah a-Din Street without having to confront hundreds of Border Police with billy clubs. Hey Sam, when was the last time a soldier came up to you while you're sipping tea in a restaurant and demanded to check your ID? Bet it doesn't happen much on Emek Refaim."

Subtract one point from Allison. I, like many of my Jewish friends, long for the day we can walk down Salah a-Din Street (and in Bethlehem, Ramallah, etc.) without fearing hostile "Non-Jews." Your friends don't get stabbed,

The city could be sub-divided into arrondissements (districts) headed by democratically elected mayors. The mayor of Greater Jerusalem will be elected by his peers, alternating between a secular, a Moslem, a haredi and a Christian.

I had to look that up: it means "a third party of ambiguous status."

Burt added both a dig and a plug: "I suggest you atone for your hostile attitude toward large Jewish families by making an offering to Efrat, the Society for the Encouragement of Childbirth for the Jewish People, POB 98109, Jerusalem 91060."

(Make a note of that address, Zoltan.)

Noralee Halpert, Tel Aviv: "If the haredim can throw rocks on Shabbat, they can serve in the army. No more exemptions."

Good idea there: conscript 'em into a rock-throwing brigade and put 'em into battle against like-minded Palestinians.

Claire Leafman of Yokne'am Illit says to hell with the men, it's up to the women to improve matters. "I advise haredi women to stand up for their rights not to be perpetually pregnant, and to wear size 14 dresses from time to time if they want. This goes for Arab women too!"

She suggests her haredi sisters "entreat their husbands and sons to come home right after shul and thus refrain from breaking the Sixth Commandment (because stones can kill) and desecrating the Shabbat. As a result, Jewish policemen too could stay home or even go to shul themselves!"

Jerusalemites Ruth and Max Weiner are troubled by "the increasing theocratic power of the fundamentalist Orthodox in Jerusalem. With their religious commitment to multiplying, a solution in Jerusalem is a most formidable task. The root of the problem, they say, is not in Mea She'arim but nearby, on Knesset Hill: "the disproportionate power of minority groups like the fundamentalists, who use that power to chip away at the democratic rights of others."

Yael Kagan Levy, of Petah Tikva, says it's cultural, and endemic to Israel as a whole. "The problem is a very, very deep one and it is called hutzpa. Maybe it comes from the historic European ancestry where just a 'hello' is a whole melodramatic escapade. Or the Sephardi ancestry which is *havi* in its own way. This country needs mega doses of WASPs: polite, stiff upper lip, never let 'em see you sweat."

With a million WASPs here, we'd behave better, for fear of what the goyim will say. "I have lately become an avid reader of your column as I find your unique mixture of arrogance and ignorance amusing," Jerusalemite Allison Hodgkins writes. (Have I been insulted here, or complimented?) "However, I am writing to express my unqualified support for your plan to make Jerusalem an intra-national city.... I wholeheartedly support your desire to see three self-supervised cantons in Jerusalem."

shot, incinerated or blown to bits on Emek Refaim.

On the other hand, I'd feel hostile too if I was constantly hounded by soldiers and police — but they're there only because of the hostility. It's a chicken-and-egg thing.

Among the more novel solutions to Jerusalem was Allison's proposed Jero-Disney. "The world's first theme park to celebrate monotheism in all its glory! Hezekiah's Flume, Mohammed's Midnight Ride (a dizzying spiral roller coaster that takes you from the rock of Abraham to the heavens... and then back down!), Herod's House of Horrors, Mameluke Merry Go Round, Farid's Falafel Ferris Wheel, Bouncing Bagel Bumper Boats" — well, you get the idea.

More soberly, visiting French social sciences professor Wolfgang Freund offers this: "Being neither an Israeli nor a Palestinian, I feel nevertheless strongly committed to the Jerusalem issue. The Paris model should work in Jerusalem. The city could be sub-divided into arrondissements (districts) headed by democratically elected mayors. The mayor of Greater Jerusalem will be elected by his peers, alternating between a secular, a Moslem, a haredi and a Christian."

"As to the ultimate quandary: Jerusalem, capital of what? I say, the capital of both Israel and the future Palestine — just like Mulhouse Airport that belongs to both France and Switzerland."

But monsieur! No Frenchman nor Swiss would choose as his last words: "If I forget thee, O Mulhouse..."

To Mark Levinson of Herzliya, the final say:

"We Israelis have hoped the Arabs would get along with us better as they gradually Westernized. Accordingly, we should give them not East Jerusalem, but West Jerusalem. The more European-style surroundings might have a pacific effect on their psychology as well as bringing the long-demanded improvement in their living conditions."

"At the same time, the dream of the secular yuppie Israeli has always been an authentic old-style Arab dwelling. The population of West Jerusalem can move into East Jerusalem and renovate it."

"This leaves only the haredim. They should switch off with the kibbutzniks. The kibbutzniks are embracing an urban lifestyle and giving up on farming, so let them live in town. The haredim may be better suited to the kibbutz, where they can enjoy plenty of room for their families, and be productive in agriculture, where having a large family is an advantage rather than a burden."

"Everybody wins." And Mark should move to Jerusalem and become mayor.

The long goodbye

RAYMOND CHANDLER: A Biography by Tom Hiney. New York: The Atlantic Monthly Press. 310 pp. \$26.

By R.W. B. Lewis

Raymond Chandler, who died in 1959 at the age of 70, is the first mystery writer to be honored by the Library of America, which brought out two well-packed volumes of his work in 1995. They contain 13 of his short crime stories from *Black Mask* and elsewhere; the seven novels featuring Philip Marlowe, from *The Big Sleep* (1939) to *Playback* (1958); his 1944 screenplay for *Double Indemnity*; a group of his essays on the arts and misdirections of detective fiction, including "The Simple Art of Murder" (1944); and a selection of his letters, mostly mulling over the same phenomena.

These texts were edited knowledgeably by Frank MacShane, author of a solidly informative biography of Chandler two decades ago, and editor of Chandler's notebooks and correspondence. The Library of America publication recognized, by implication, the literary reality of crime writing at its most pungent, and it made the right choice for its representative. Of the three key figures in the "realistic" or "hard-boiled" vein of American mystery writing, Chandler is the one whose work has definitely settled on a high plateau of achievement. Dashiell Hammett is, of course, the great progenitor, and his contribution remains potent, but too often his narratives lurch off into wildest melodrama. Ross Macdonald, the heir apparent of Hammett and Chandler, was an elegant performer at times, with a detective, Lew Archer, of considerable appeal, but his plotting could get extraordinarily complex (Chandler, by contrast, despised plotting), and you needed paper and pencil at hand to chart the labyrinthine genealogies within which the crime's solution lay buried.

The new biography of Chandler by the English journalist Tom Hiney is therefore extremely timely and welcome. Hiney skillfully sorts out the successive phases of this sometimes troubled and muddled life. There were the early childhood years in a grim Chicago household, and then there was the long period in England (where his Irish-born mother took him after her divorce), from 1895, when Raymond was seven, to 1912, when he was 24. After a few years back in the United States, Chandler married Cissy Pascal, the irresistible former wife of a concert pianist, herself almost 18 years older than Chandler. Chandler procured a job in the Los Angeles oil industry, and through the 1920s lived a life of big money, new cars, fast society, tremendous drinking and a deepening experience of the multi-tiered Los Angeles area.

From this, luckily for us, Chandler was rescued by being fired for drunkenness and absenteeism. He took to writing crime stories, some of them first-class, for pulp magazines, and in 1938 Alfred Knopf suggested he try his hand at a novel. The result was *The Big Sleep*, published when Chandler was 51. There followed *Farewell, My Lovely* (1940) and *The High Window*



Raymond Chandler. He took to writing crime stories after being fired for drunkenness and absenteeism.

(1942). In 1943, he began working for Paramount, consorting over the next years, to greater and lesser effect, with Billy Wilder and Alfred Hitchcock, writing an original script for *The Blue Dahlia* and watching his Marlowe novels being brought to the screen. Of these, the best is still *The Big Sleep* of 1946, with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall (partly scripted by William Faulkner and directed by Howard Hawks), though its predecessor, *Farewell, My Lovely* – needlessly retitled *Murder, My Sweet* – with a transformed Dick Powell, is crisp, animated and eminently re-sealable.

After *The Lady in the Lake* (1943) and *The Little Sister* (1949) and delays and distractions, Chandler brought out *The Long Goodbye* (1954), his longest and literally most ambitious – also, in Hiney's view, his most autobiographical – novel. In the same year, Cissy died at the age of 84. Until his own death in 1959, Chandler was almost continuously drunk. His final Marlowe novel, *Playback*, Hiney tells us, was entirely written while his author was drunk. Chandler was in and out of clinics and fell to making spur-of-the-moment proposals of marriage to various women. Hiney handles this closing phase with deftness and sympathy, but it makes sorry reading.

Not surprisingly, Hiney is especially felicitous in recounting Chandler's

English years, particularly the period from 1900 to 1904, when he was a day student at Dulwich College. Much of the data here can be found in Mr. MacShane's biography, but Hiney brings an attractive freshness and intimacy to the story. At Dulwich, Chandler absorbed ancient and modern languages and literature, played rugby, won prizes and came under the lasting influence of the 6-foot-5 headmaster, A. H. Gilkes, who crusaded with happy ferocity against all forms of pretentiousness. A part of Philip Marlowe's pretension-piercing character obviously derived from those schoolboy days, and it was only fitting that the detective should be named after Dulwich's Marlowe House.

No less impressive and illuminating is Hiney's discussion of the Marlowe novels, one by one. He subjects *The Big Sleep* and its successors to close critical scrutiny, treating them as the genuine and original literary products that they are. He notes that in the longer form, as against the short story, Chandler could "reduce the mystery element of his story in order to concentrate on atmosphere and character." Exactly so, but by no means an insight easy to arrive at or to formulate. Again, *The Big Sleep* was not after all "about who had done what, so much as what Marlowe had made of it all." The Marlowe who broods over

the events, Hiney persuasively argues, is a stand-in for Chandler as he seeks to "explain his own eccentric reclusivity," his taste for alcohol, his twisty humor. As to Chandler's method of composition, Hiney remarks acutely that he sought to make each scene "self-contained and of interest in itself," and that he "placed an almost cinematic emphasis on strong scenes over a strong structure."

These admirable analyses fix Chandler's esthetic accomplishment in the language that becomes it. They do so, it must be added, within a somewhat hazy context: that is, of the history of the detective-story genre in this century. It is never clear, at least to this reader, why it seems necessary to belittle the "traditional" detective story, as practiced in England by Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers and Margery Allingham, in order to salute the more tough-minded (and as may be) more richly textured American kind. Chandler – and here he is followed by his biographers – regularly denounced Christie as "bunk" and Sayers as trivial and affected, as though suffering from fits of Harold Bloomian anxiety of influence. But for some of us, it is possible in one mood to enjoy following Marlowe down those mean streets, and in another, more relaxed, mood to savor the clever deceptions and neatly choreographed denouement of a Christie whodunit.

Hiney is also a trifle hazy about some aspects of the American scene. He tellingly observes the enthusiasm of both English reviewers and literati for Chandler from the outset, but when he quotes Evelyn Waugh in the late 1940s proclaiming that Chandler was "the greatest living American novelist," he apparently fails to realize that this was a masterpiece of sardony, a put-down in the classic English manner – at one stroke sweeping away Faulkner, Hemingway, Steinbeck, Lewis and all the other American fiction writers then living.

Chandler knew all these writers; in his frequently grumpy way, he was exceedingly well read. An engaging literary, no doubt going back to the Dulwich College classrooms, shows in some of his titles. *The Lady in the Lake*, with a change of preposition ("in" for "of"), comes from the Sir Walter Scott poem; *The Long Goodbye* has a distinct poetic ring; and Chandler's first title for what became *Farewell, My Lovely* was "The Second Murderer," a slyly abstruse reference to *Richard III* (I, iv).

Robert B. Parker followed suit with the beautifully appropriate Shakespearean phrase *Perchance to Dream* as the title for his own Marlowe novel in 1991, a book presented as a sequel to *The Big Sleep*. Parker had previously taken over the manuscript of *Poodle Springs* (Chandler's private name for poodle-infested Palm Springs), of which Chandler had written only a few chapters before his death, and carried it to completion with commendable authority. Parker's two additions to the Marlowe canon are distinguished testimony to the hardening cultural grip of Raymond Chandler. The same and more can be said of Tom Hiney's thoughtful and finely rounded biography. (New York Times)

Backyard ecology

THIS PLACE ON EARTH: Home and the Practice of Permanence by Alan Thein Durning. Seattle, Sasquatch Books. 326 pp. \$22.95.

REFLECTED IN WATER: A Crisis of Social Responsibility by Colin Ward. London, Cassell. 147 pp. £12.99.

HYDROLOGICS: Conflicts Over Water as a Development Constraint edited by Lief Ohlsson. London and New Jersey, Zed Books. 230 pp. \$25.

By Nachman Spiegel

As a Washington, D.C.-based activist, Alan Thein Durning toiled for years on behalf of environmental causes. These pursuits eventually took him to the Philippines, where he interviewed members of hill tribes about their livelihood. At one point an elder he met asked him to tell her about his "place." Unprepared for the query, Durning replied, "In America we have careers, not places." Though brief, the encounter turned out to be crucial for Durning. It heightened the uncomfortable, rootless feelings he shared with his wife about living in the inhospitable outskirts of the state capital. More centrally, it propelled Durning to wonder if locally based environmental efforts might in fact pack more clout than those that strive constantly for the big-time sweep. "Greater rootedness," he muses, "might be the force that would defer us from eating our habitat alive."

Seattle, where Durning grew up, becomes the testing ground for seeing what role enduring bonds to a particular place may play in the preservation of its environmental resources. Fifteen years away don't erase either childhood memories or the sense of belonging. In terms of Durning's priorities as a shaper of environmental policies and awareness, these factors are secondary. What matters more is Seattle as a locale within that part of North America called the Pacific Northwest. "No part of the industrial world has as large a share of its ecosystems intact," says Durning. This is surprising given the extensive exploitation of the region's resources, which he chronicles.

Homeboy or not, this is more than another case of "not in my backyard" passion for the environment. There is no compelling imperative for the blinders made elsewhere to be repeated wherever the opportunity arises. Rather, there's a need to prevent these recurrences, through planning, organization and articulate response. His comments concerning the harmonious relationship between urban sprawl and increased reliance on private cars hit home. Only well-planned areas of urban population density will provide a suitable alternative to the Los Angeles model of the world. The proviso applies no less to suburbs of Portland, Oregon or Seattle than it does to places in Israel such as Misgav, where those

with the means take refuge from hectic Haifa, are totally dependent on their cars, and then go radically environmental whenever another factory wants to set up shop next door.

Durning's success in helping to build an appreciable environmental coalition suggests that his idea about the worth of locally based efforts is right. It would have been no less so had he skipped the talk show type confessions about his vasectomy and its link to population growth.

COLIN WARD'S *Reflected in Water: A Crisis of Social Responsibility* also grapples with questions of limits and policy, particularly as they pertain to water as a basic human right and necessity. Ward feels that Thackerianism went overboard when it privatized water supply and thereby made a commodity of an item without which people cannot survive. As engineering firms and others likely to cash in begin increasingly clamoring for similar solutions to Israel's water problems, Ward's argument demands urgent attention. He notes that, in England, the call for restrained use was heeded to a greater extent before water became a commodity. Once it became another item for sale, unlimited use was no problem for those who could pay.

Ward goes well beyond England to cite other instances where government water policies resulted in problems much greater than those they were meant to solve. It is more than coincidental that Ward, like Durning, sees growing importance in locally based efforts to shape water policy by the people who stand to be most affected by it. Such people, Ward acknowledges, may be powerless and thereby place the burden of protest elsewhere. In the case of China's catastrophic plans for a humongous dam on the Yangtze River, groups such as Probe International fight to prevent their implementation. They might not have any influence on Beijing but they can dam the flow of funding directed toward it from outside.

NEITHER EDITOR Lief Ohlsson nor the other geographically diverse contributors assembled in *Hydrologics: Conflicts Over Water as a Development Constraint* seem to draw much optimism from technological or privatization panaceas. When it comes to looming worldwide water shortages, there is, however, a consensus that cooperative interdependence and use of resources will provide the only answers. "It will turn out to be a case of preserving the productivity and diversity of natural systems," writes Ohlsson, "precisely because this is the only viable way of safeguarding human welfare." In *Rivers of Eden: The Struggle for Water and the Quest for Peace in the Middle East* (Oxford, 1994), David Hillel also stressed the primacy of regional cooperation in dealing with the area's water problems. "To go on investing," he wrote, "in ever more elaborate schemes to meet the already excessive and ever-expanding demands without examining and attempting to moderate those demands will inevitably lead to economic, ecological and political crises."

STEINMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

1. Clinic by Jonathan Kellerman. Warner, Bantam.
2. Airframe by Michael Crichton. Arrow, Ballantine.
3. English Patient by Michael Ondaatje. Vintage, Picador.
4. Laws of our Fathers by Scott Turow. Penguin.
5. Executive Orders by Tom Clancy. HarperCollins, Berkeley.
6. Cauldron by Colin Forbes. Pan.
7. Third Twin by Ken Follett. Fawcett, Pan.
8. Icon by Frederick Forsyth. Bantam, Corgi.
9. Mortal Fear by Greg Iles. Coronet.
10. Next of Kin by Joanna Trollope. Black Swan.

BOOK BYTES

Daniel Evan Weiss is a young American novelist who cannot get his books published (or read) in America. All four of his works, including his latest, are published in Britain. Weiss is also a satirist, and a Jew. That combination has inspired him to write a lesson in American history called *The Swine's Wedding* (Serpent's Tail). The themes of the book, detailing a Jewish-WASP wedding, are the poisons of prejudice and complacency. Asked why he cannot find a US publisher, Weiss says, "I've got to say in all humbleness that I am a skillful writer. It's got to be something else that's bothering them."

IN HIS review of Tom Clancy's latest novel, *SSN*, the London *Evening Standard's* David Sexton mentioned that Clancy recently celebrated an unannounced birthday. However, it must have been quite a milestone, because his wife surprised the bestselling author with a Sherman tank to mark the occasion. The tank is now parked on his lawn.

WHEN THE poet and novelist James Dickey died in January, his biographer Henry Hart was still in the throes of his research. According to Hart, Dickey's most notable novel *Deliverance* (in the film version of which the author played the sheriff) was not necessarily the only great tale he ever told. "He loved to embellish and invent," Hart recalls. "Dickey was trying to make his own life conform to an American ideal. He mythologized his life, treating it as a poem or a novel. He was making it up." For instance, Dickey never denied the myth that he was a decorated Korean War pilot. In fact, he was an airborne radar observer.

After much reluctance on

Dickey's part, Hart managed to spend a week with his subject before he died. He prepared a list of "500 to 600 questions. We worked for five or six hours every afternoon, going through them. He answered very generously and was bothered by nothing that I asked."

The biography, to be published by Picador, hasn't been titled yet, but Dickey, who defined poetry as "a creative lie," suggested his own title: "James Dickey: The World As a Lie."

ANOTHER PASSING. Helene Hanft, author of *Eighty Four Charing Cross Road*, died in New York in April at age 80. Hanft's charming book recorded her 20-year trans-Atlantic exchange of letters with the manager of a London second-hand bookshop. The book was reworked, first into a long-running West End stage production and later as a successful film.

Hanft once commented that the book was "no bestseller, it didn't make me rich and famous, but it got me hundreds of letters from people I never knew existed; it got me wonderful reviews; it restored my self-confidence and it changed my life." She never married, preferring "always to be home alone."

THE WRITERS' Guild of America, East (WGAE), representing 3,400 professional writers, has established an On-line Script Registration Service (<http://www.wgae.org>). Members and nonmembers alike may now register screenplays, radio plays, scripts and other works directly over the Internet. Registration provides evidence of an author's claim to authorship and the date of completion. Most producers require scripts to be registered before they are considered.

David Brauner

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. Plum Island by Nelson DeMille. (Warner \$26.) A detective probes the murder of a Long Island couple who may have been involved in germ warfare research.
2. Special Delivery by Danielle Steel. (Delacorte, \$16.95) Romance comes to a mature couple.
3. Fat Tuesday by Sandra Brown. (HarperCollins \$24.) A cop turned outlaw and the wife of a sinister attorney go on a tear in New Orleans during Mardi Gras.
4. The Partner by John Grisham. (Doubleday \$26.95) The search for \$80 million stolen by a Mississippi lawyer, believed dead, who is hiding in Brazil.
5. Up Island by Anne Rivers Siddons. (HarperCollins \$24.) An Atlanta woman, after a bad marriage and her mother's death, seeks a new life.
6. Chasing Cezanne by Peter May. (Knopf \$23.) A photographer pursues a painting taken from a house in the south of France.
7. London by Edward Rutherfurd. (Crown \$25.95) Two thousand years of life in Britain's capital as seen through the eyes of six families.
8. The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner \$16.95.) A World War II veteran meets an old flame who is about to be married.
9. The President's Daughter by Jack Higgins. (Putnam \$23.95) The president of the US copes with kidnappers who threaten to kill his child.
10. Pretend You Don't See Her by Mary Higgins Clark. (Simon & Schuster \$25.) A chance witness to a murder is obliged to live anonymously to save her life.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt. (Schirer \$24.) An Irish-American recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
2. Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer. (Villard \$24.95) A journalist's account of his ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
3. The Bible Code by Michael Drosnin. (Simon & Schuster \$25.) A journalist contends that important events have been predicted in the Bible.
4. The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger. (Norton, \$23.95) An account of the northeast of 1991, focusing on a crew of fishermen from Gloucester, Mass.
5. Brain Droppings by George Carlin. (Hyperion \$19.95) Comments on life and the ways of the world by the stand-up comedian.
6. The Gift of Fear by Gavin de Becker. (Little, Brown \$22.95) Intuitive signals that can protect us from becoming the victims of violence.
7. Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt. (Random House \$12.95) The mysterious death of a young man in Savannah, Ga.
8. Just As I Am by Billy Graham. (Harper San Francisco/Zondervan \$26.50) The autobiography of the crusading preacher.
9. The Millionaire Next Door by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. (Longstreet, \$22) An analysis of the lives of wealthy Americans discloses that they have seven characteristics in common.
10. Conversations with God: Book 1 by Neale Donald Walsch. (Putnam \$19.95) The author addresses questions of life and love, good and evil, guilt and sin.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. Songs in Ordinary Time by Mary McGarry Morris. (Penguin \$13.95) A divorced woman and her three children, summering in Vermont in 1960, are menaced by a con man.
2. The Deep End of the Ocean by Jacquelyn Mitchard. (Signet \$7.50) The disappearance of a three-year-old brings a family anguish and redemption.
3. The Clayborne Bride: Parts 1-2 by Julie Garwood. (Pocket \$2.99 each) "One Pink Rose" and "One White Rose" relate the 18th-century romantic adventures of three Montana brothers.
4. Exclusive by Sandra Brown. (Warner Vision \$7.50) Should a television reporter broadcast the secrets confided to her by the first lady?
5. Demon Seed by Dean Koonitz. (Berkey \$7.50) Obsessive desire for complete privacy is threatened by the ultimate computer.
6. Malice by Danielle Steel. (Del \$7.50) A woman struggles to overcome memories of betrayals and assaults.
7. Prayers for the Dead by Faye Kellerman. (Avon \$6.99) Peter Decker and Rita Lazarus in pursuit of the murderer of a famous surgeon.
8. The Runaway Jury by John Grisham. (Island/Dell \$7.99) A woman in a Mississippi Gulf Coast town uses a tobacco company for causing her husband's death.
9. The Fourth Estate by Jeffery Archer. (Harper Paperbacks, \$7.50) An Australian and a refugee from Nazism vie to become the world's most powerful press lord.
10. Memento Mori by Anne Rice. (Ballantine, \$7.99) The vampire Lestat is snatched from the world by an adversary who claims to be the Devil.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. The Heart of a Woman by Maya Angelou. (Bantam \$12.) Volume 4 of the poet's autobiography.
2. Undaunted Courage by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Touchstone/S&S \$16.) The story of how Thomas Jefferson sponsored Lewis and Clark.
3. Emotional Intelligence by Daniel Coleman. (Bantam \$13.95) Factors other than IQ that contribute to a successful and happy life.
4. Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95) The story of a young man whose obsession with the wilderness had a tragic end in Alaska.
5. The Color of Water by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12.) A black writer and musician recalls his experiences growing up with his white mother in a Brooklyn housing project.
6. A Civil Action by Jonathan Harr. (Vintage \$13.) Householders sue industrial polluters.
7. Reviving Ophelia by Mary Pipher. (Ballantine \$12.50) The everyday dangers that beset teenage girls.
8. Spontaneous Healing by Andrew Weil. (Fawcett \$12.95) How the body heals itself.
9. How Could You Do That? by Laura Schlessinger. (Harper Perennial \$13.) Self-indulgent morality, and ways to overcome it.
10. The Dilbert Principle by Scott Adams. (Harper Business \$11.95) A satirical look in words and cartoons at the follies of business and management.

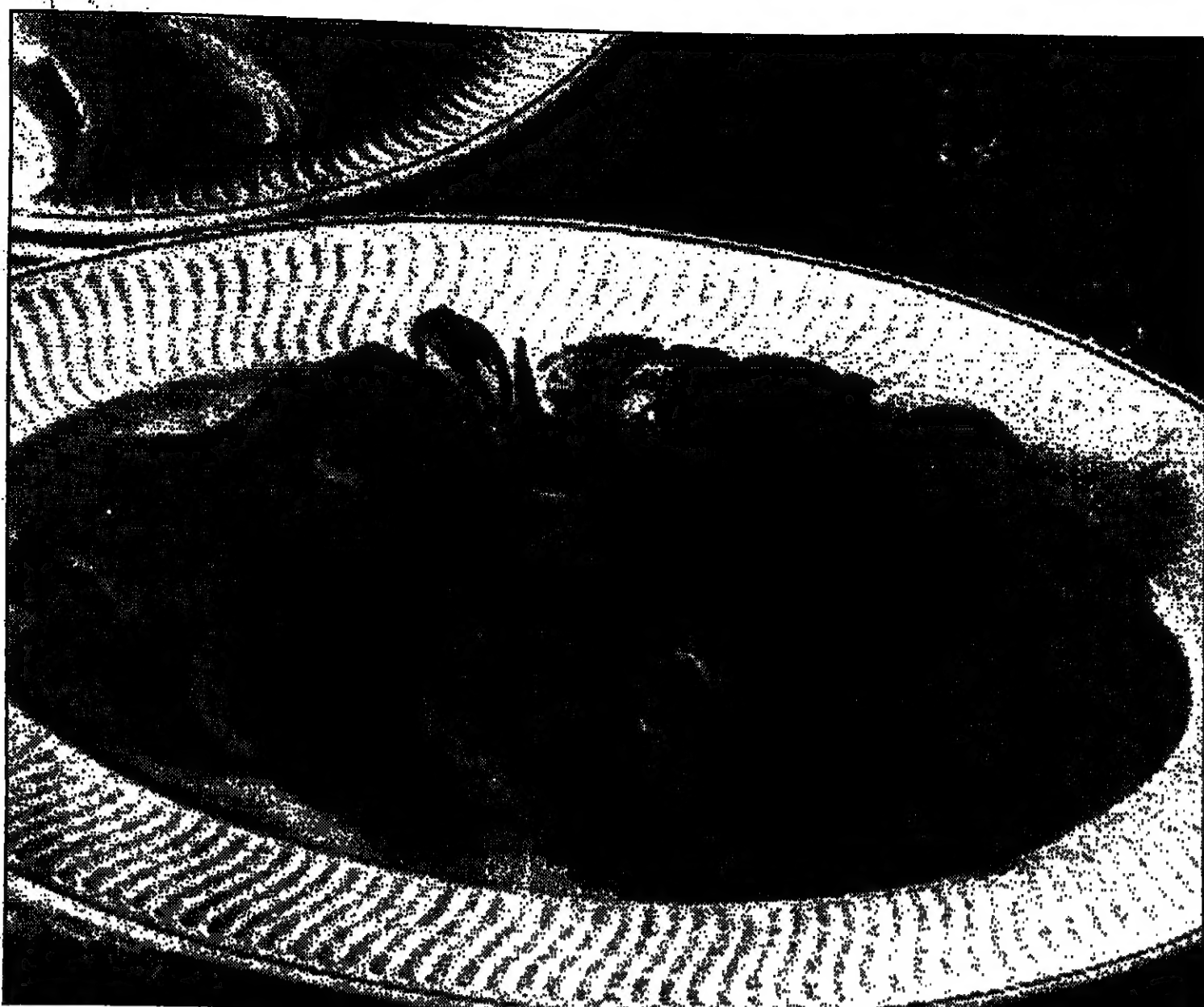
PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ... and It's All Small Stuff by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95) How to enjoy life much more and contribute to the world we live in.
2. Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberly Kirberger. (Health Communications \$12.95) Inspiration.
3. Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Jennifer Lee Hawthorne, and Carol Shimoff. (Health Communications \$12.95) Inspiration.
4. Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. Simple Abundance by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner \$17.95) Advice for women seeking to improve themselves.
2. Eight Weeks to Optimum Health by Andrew Weil. (Knopf \$23.) A physician's diet, exercise and psychological program.
3. Kids Are Funny (Warner \$10.) A collection of jokes submitted by children to The Rosie O'Donnell Show.
4. Mars and Venus on a Date by John Gray. (HarperCollins \$22.) Steps to take to achieve a lasting, loving relationship.

مكتبات الرصيف



A LA CARTE Before the Guillotine

By DANIEL ROGOV

In three days, 55 million French men and women will be celebrating Bastille Day, the anniversary of the onset of the French Revolution in 1789. With the exception of Marie Antoinette's most untimely remark about letting the hungry masses of Paris eat brioche (not cake as most people think), historians have tended to ignore the role of food in the French Revolution.

Nearly everyone who lives in France is quite certain, for example, that the revolution started out as an attempt to relieve the barbaric conditions of the prisoners at the prison known as the Bastille. It is commonly and incorrectly believed that the prisoners in the Bastille were forced by the regime to live on a near-starvation diet.

The truth is that life in the Bastille was not all that difficult. In fact, for many of those residing there, the Bastille may have been one of the best pre-revolutionary restaurants of Paris. During his own stay there, for example, the Marquis de Sade passed his time watching down truffled sausages with fine Bordeaux wines. On the day the Bastille was actually liberated, there were only six prisoners in attendance.

On the day the Bastille was stormed, one prisoner, imprisoned for failure to pay his debts, insisted on staying in his three-room suite long enough to finish his roast pheasant dinner. Another demanded that the crowd help him carry away the more than 50 bottles of wine that he had set aside for his use.

In fact, when the crowd tore down the Bastille, they were unknowingly carrying out a plan for which Louis XVI already had set aside funds. In what may be another interesting footnote to history, of the six liberated prisoners, three were eventually executed by

the same people who freed them, two emigrated to America and one, Andre Dubois, harmless but quite insane, went on to become a member of the French senate.

French gastronomes of all classes were concerned with the influence of the revolution on their dining habits. Grimod de la Reyniere, a well-known banker and gastronome, of the ancien regime, considered the revolution little more than "an unpleasant interlude when austerity had to be simulated and chefs given their notice. If it had lasted," he wrote, "France might have actually lost the recipe for fricasseed chicken."

One of Grimod's chefs, Antoine Broissard, took it a bit more seriously. When Broissard discovered that he could not locate any Nantes ducklings to serve for dinner one evening, he hanged himself in his kitchen.

Many of France's most devoted gourmets ended both their revolutionary zeal and their gastronomic endeavours by a meeting with the falling blade of the guillotine. It may be of some historic interest to know that some of them ate just before keeping their appointment with the Widow, as the guillotine was known.

Georges-Jacques Danton, surely the most charming of the revolutionaries and a great gourmet, dined on stuffed squab, fresh asparagus, and raspberry sorbet before his execution. Robespierre, Danton's rival but not a man who especially appreciated good food, supped on a thick lentil soup just before his own moment of truth. The Duke of Burgundy dined elegantly on salmon mousse and apple pie, while Armand, the Prince of Conde, had a light snack of salmon in mouseline sauce.

As to the women, the only form of equality between the sexes that the legislators of the revolution believed in was the guillotine,

which decapitated members of either sex with equal dispatch. Marie Antoinette, Madame Roland, and Charlotte Corday, the three most famous women of the revolution, all met their deaths in this manner.

Madame Antoinette, executed by guillotine, was a royalist, a monarchist, and a royalist. She was a member of the aristocracy, a member of the nobility, and a member of the bourgeoisie. She was a member of the aristocracy, a member of the nobility, and a member of the bourgeoisie. She was a member of the aristocracy, a member of the nobility, and a member of the bourgeoisie.

Madame du Barry, the last great courtesan of the royal days, and a woman of elevated taste in food as well as in lovers, is said to have dined on raspberries with fresh cream before being carted off to the guillotine. Du Barry's final words were: "I have lived all my life in the name of good taste. Now I am to die by the hands of people of bad taste."

The recipes that follow were dedicated by various chefs to those they considered revolutionary heroes.

COTES DE VEAU GEORGES-JACQUES DANTON

- 12 thin veal cutlets
- 2 Tbsp. paprika
- salt and pepper to taste
- 4/5 cup butter or parve substitute
- 450 gr. mushrooms, sliced
- 1 1/2 cups sweet cream or parve substitute

Sprinkle the cutlets with paprika, salt, and pepper.

In a skillet large enough to hold all the cutlets, melt half of the butter and in this fry the cutlets. Add more butter only if the skillet becomes dry. Fry until nearly done, turning several times.

When the cutlets are nearly done add the sliced mushrooms and continue cooking on a low flame, adding more butter if necessary, until the cutlets are done. Transfer the cutlets to a preheated serving platter.

To the skillet, add the remaining butter and the cream. Heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture is simmering and then pour over the meat. Serve immediately. (Serves 6.)

SORBET DU BARRY

- 1 1/2 kg. bananas, cut in chunks
- 2 small pineapples, cut in chunks (may substitute tinned pineapple chunks)
- 2 oranges, peeled and cut in sections
- 2 lemons, peeled and cut in sections
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 egg white

Puree the fruits, sugar, and lemon juice in a blender or food processor, adding more sugar to taste if necessary.

Transfer the puree to a large, flat metal dish and freeze until nearly solid.

Remove from the freezer and beat the mixture until fluffy. Add the egg white and beat for 1 minute longer. Return to the freezer. Once again, remove from the freezer before the mixture is solid and beat well.

Transfer to an ice-cream mold or individual dessert glasses, return to the freezer, and freeze solid. Transfer the sorbet to the regular refrigeration compartment about 15 minutes before serving. (Serves 6-8.)

Food & Drink

Phyllis' Notebook

Wok Around the Clock

By PHYLLIS GLAZER

As the summer heat confounds us, most of us would rather not be in the kitchen. One way to make your stay in the kitchen shorter is by concentrating on salads. Another way is by using a wok. Wok cooking is fast and easy - if you know how to do it correctly.

Wok is a Cantonese word for a pot designed especially for the sliding and flipping movements of stir-frying. A round-bottomed wok - the traditional shape - is designed for cooking over gas, since propane gas was the cooking fuel in China. Stir-frying was developed in China in response to the price of fuel; the technique of short, rapid cooking over high heat uses a minimum amount of oil.

Incidentally, stir-frying isn't the only thing you can do with a wok. Steaming or reheating foods in a bamboo steamer basket over a liquid-filled wok is amazingly fast, fragrant, and infinitely tastier than using a microwave.

Flat-bottomed woks, which can be used on gas or electric stoves,

are also popular today. Although some wok aficionados claim you can't do true stir-frying in them, my flat-bottomed wok is probably the most frequently used pot in my kitchen. Electric woks, however, are a different story; they are inappropriate for stir-frying, but are good for steaming or deep frying if the heat range is hot enough.

Woks come in all different kinds of material: stainless steel with copper bottoms, iron, aluminum, and tempered steel. The best wok for cooking is the traditional Chinese steel wok, though some food experts, like Craig Claiborne, prefer iron. Don't be surprised if it blackens with use, however. The better the patina, the easier it will be to cook in and clean it.

Woks range in sizes from 30 to 60 cm., the biggest for restaurant use. The 36-cm. wok is probably the most popular and useful size. You can also find them with a wooden handle, two metal handles, and with small ear-shaped handles.

Don't expect your wok-cooked foods to taste just like those in a good Chinese restaurant. The home heat source is roughly half

as strong as that found in a typical restaurant. Higher heat more effectively seals in the juices of the ingredients, locking in more flavor and nutrients, and makes the sauce cling better. Foods will also be more crisp since the higher heat firms the surface of the food before the inside becomes overcooked.

The higher heat makes the chemical reaction that heightens the color of the vegetables work more effectively, so the restaurant's food also may look better than yours.

Seasoning a wok is vital to successful wok-cooking. If it is new, wash it well with soap, dry completely, and use a paper towel to rub the inside with any regular oil. Repeat rubbing with clean paper towels until the towel comes away clean. Then bake it in a 190°C oven or place it over high heat on the stove till it is fully dry.

To clean it after use, rinse with hot water using no or little detergent, rub it with a bamboo brush or nylon pad, and dry immediately over the stove. Let it cool, rub lightly with oil, and store.

Rogov's Shopping Basket

Litchis and Other Summer Fruits

By DANIEL ROGOV

When it was first cultivated in China, nearly 5,000 years ago, the litchi was considered a fruit so delicate and rare that it was served only in the homes of the extraordinarily wealthy.

Nearly 1,000 years ago, under the rule of the Song Dynasty, hundreds of thousands of dumplings were planted with litchis and the fruit was soon available to nearly all Chinese. If its delicate taste was not enough to make it popular, the fact that many believed the fruit to be an aphrodisiac was useful in making it universally adored.

Even though it is not truly an aphrodisiac, litchi, which are now cultivated extensively in China, India and the Philippines, are extremely popular throughout the Far East. Litchis have also become popular in the West where, until recently, they were available only in tins. Several years ago, litchi shrubs were imported into Israel from China and fresh litchis are now readily available at local green grocers.

The litchi looks like a large berry, about the size of a cherry. The thin, hard shell, which is green at first, then pink, and finally red when the fruit is ripe, comes away easily from the fruit, which is white, sweet, and musky in flavor. Far tastier than those that come in tins, the fruit makes a delicious treat when eaten plain, much as one would cherries, or as an addition to mixed fruit salads.

Many also find that litchis make excellent accompaniments to cooked chicken or fish dishes, especially those that are served with a sweet sauce.

To make litchi marmalade, remove the shells and seeds from 1 1/4 kg. of litchis. Place these in a saucepan and pour over 1 1/2 cups of water. Bring the mixture to a boil, reduce the flame, and simmer gently for about 10 minutes.

Put through a sieve and measure the remaining mixture. For every cup, add 1 cup of sugar and, mixing constantly, simmer until the mixture thickens. Store in well-sealed sterile jars.

Those who want to try this very special fruit should be aware that the litchi season is a short one and will last only another month.

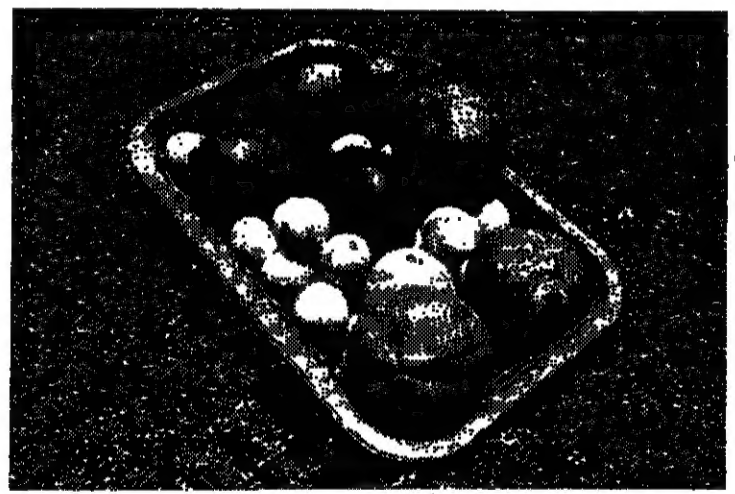
Advice About Other Summer Fruits

• Peaches, nectarines and apricots should be firm but not hard, free of blemishes, and covered with skin that is smooth and unwrinkled. They should have a good color when they are bought and should not have any soft spots or black patches on them.

They also should have a pleasant aroma. Do not buy green peaches or apricots because they will not ripen and will soon lose their flavor.

• Cherries and grapes should be firm even when they are ready to eat. Do not buy cherries or grapes if they are mushy or have wrinkled skin because they are probably far too old to give any pleasure.

• When you buy a watermelon,



ask the greengrocer to cut a small triangle from the melon so that you can taste it. If the watermelon is not ripe enough, too ripe, or too sour, ask for another one. A greengrocer who will not let you taste the watermelon you are buying is not worth returning to.

When you have finished eating your watermelon do not throw away the rind but clean it and make watermelon pickles.

• With the exception of watermelons, melons, and litchis, nearly all fruits should be washed before serving or using in a recipe. Do not, however, wash fruits until shortly before ready to use them because washing makes them spoil more rapidly.

• When serving fruits for dessert, they should always be well chilled. Cherries and grapes can be stored in the refrigerator for up to a week without spoiling; peaches and apricots refrigerate well for four or five days if they are ripe when purchased; and a watermelon can be stored for up to two weeks.

Once a melon or watermelon has been cut, cover the surface with plastic wrap to keep it fresh. Never freeze fresh, uncooked fruits as this will destroy their texture and taste.

• If you find that the apricots or peaches you purchased lack flavor, do not despair, but serve them with fresh lemon or use them to make a compote. To do this peel the fruits and remove the pits. Soak every 1/4 kg. of fruit in 6 cups of water for about 1/2 hour and then bring to a boil. Add 3/4 cup sugar and 2 Tbsp. of lemon juice, stir well, lower the flame, and let simmer gently until the fruits are completely tender (about 30 minutes). Refrigerate, covered, and serve cold with the liquids as a first course or dessert.

• When cooking keep in mind that any recipe calling for peaches can also be made with apricots.

Tips for Gastronomes

In the three years in which Marie Antoinette has been open, it has become increasingly evident that David Lazar is one of those chefs who enjoys playful experimentation in his kitchen and loves nothing more than sending out happy culinary surprises to those who visit his restaurant. It also has become apparent that Lazar adores berries so much that they appear in nearly half of the dishes on his menu.

During a recent visit, I focused entirely on dishes that are more or

less new to the menu. My first course, a "tartar of avocado," consisted of small, gently seasoned cubes of avocado that have been sprinkled over with just the right amount of lemon juice, placed in a mold, and inverted onto a large serving plate over paper-thin lemon slices.

What converted this simple, but excellent offering into a dish to be deeply admired was that on the same plate were six perfectly cooked shrimps in a pale, exquisite cream sauce that was absolutely exploding with flavor.

Continuing on the theme of shrimps, I sampled another first course, this one of shrimps that had been placed on skewers together with slices of green and red peppers, cherry tomatoes, and onion. Coated with a just-sweet-enough sauce that I believe contained honey and soy sauce, and sprinkled with sesame seeds after having been grilled, the dish was a marvelously tasty fusion of French, Mediterranean, and Far-Eastern cuisines.

The 1995 Gewurtztraminer wine of Concha y Toro was perfect with both dishes.

I continued with a pork dish made elegant by its simplicity. The dish consisted of thick, round, well-seasoned slices of pork fillet that had been grilled until almost crisp on the exterior but retained just a hint of pink on the interior. The chef's choice of a berry sauce that was almost as thick as a puree could not have been better, the pronounced flavors of the sweet-sour berries proving a perfect marriage to the juicy, finely textured meat.

The greeting one receives on entering is genuinely warm, the service is friendly and efficient, the wine list is well thought out, and the decor is intelligently simple - the stylized wood donkeys, elephants, and giraffes standing on the tables cannot help but bring a smile to the face.

The food, regardless of whether one selects the playful or the more "serious" choices, is excellent, the portions are generous, and it is apparent that the restaurant goes from strength to strength. The average bill, of about NIS 250 per couple (not including wine), represents excellent value for money.

Marie Antoinette: 6 Rehov Florentine, Tel Aviv. Open Monday-Friday from 7 p.m. to midnight and on Friday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tel. (03) 682-3403.

Wine Cellar

By DANIEL ROGOV

Appealing and Easy to Drink

Since 1925, the Bordeaux Chateau de la Tour has been an important force in shaping Bordeaux wine tastes. Today, Bordeaux wine tastes that are appealing and easy to drink are the most popular. The Chateau de la Tour is a small, family-owned winery that produces a range of wines that are appealing and easy to drink. The Chateau de la Tour is a small, family-owned winery that produces a range of wines that are appealing and easy to drink.

84 Chateau de la Tour, 1995. This wine is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. It is a dark, rich wine with a long, smooth finish. It is a good choice for a special occasion or a gift.

85 Bordeaux, 1995. This wine is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. It is a dark, rich wine with a long, smooth finish. It is a good choice for a special occasion or a gift.

86 Bordeaux, 1995. This wine is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. It is a dark, rich wine with a long, smooth finish. It is a good choice for a special occasion or a gift.

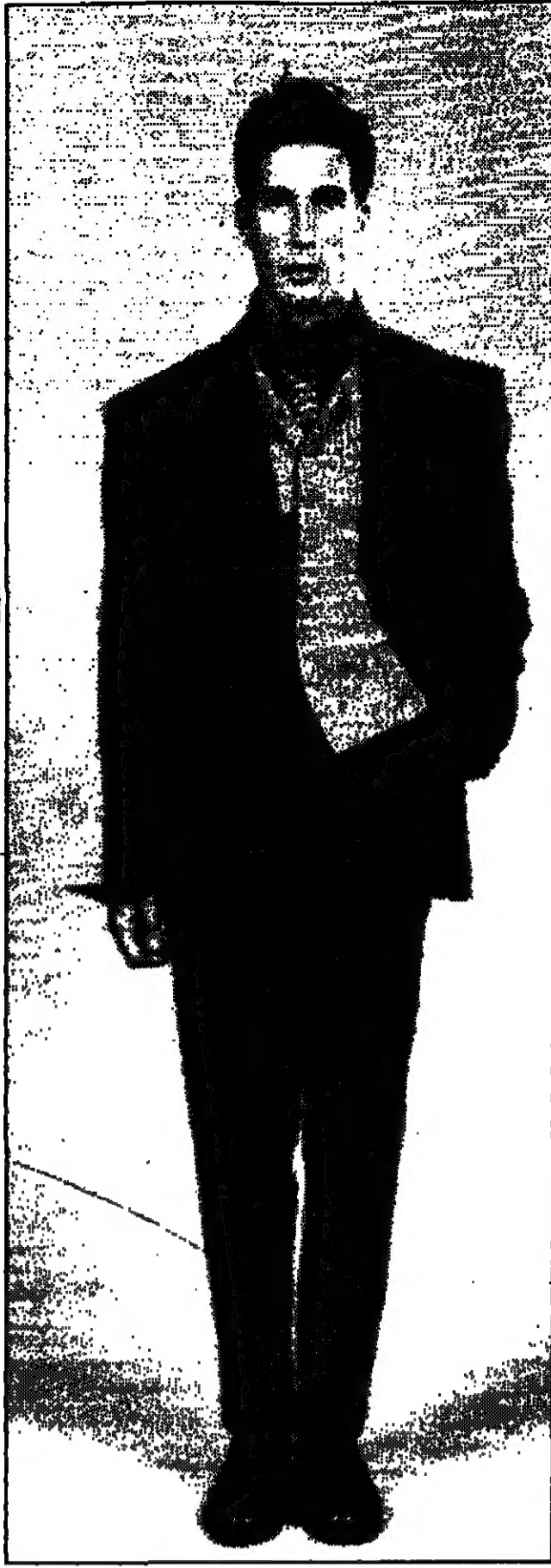
87 Bordeaux, 1995. This wine is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. It is a dark, rich wine with a long, smooth finish. It is a good choice for a special occasion or a gift.

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89 Bordeaux, 1995. This wine is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. It is a dark, rich wine with a long, smooth finish. It is a good choice for a special occasion or a gift.

90 Bordeaux, 1995. This wine is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. It is a dark, rich wine with a long, smooth finish. It is a good choice for a special occasion or a gift.

FLAIR



From the Guy Laroche collection

French chic and pampering in TA

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

The shops on Tel Aviv's Rehov Dizengoff are gorgeous, but mostly empty lately. Even sales are not tempting people to readily part with their money. Some say the political uncertainties are being reflected in the marketplace, but the generally uninspiring fashion is reinforcing any other reasons for the reluctance to buy.

Given this, it took a lot of courage for Ronit and Mickey Mor and Patrick Malek to open Premier, located on the premises of the former Sukiyaki restaurant.

Premier, which is the exclusive Israeli representative for Guy Laroche clothing and accessories, also stocks accessories from other luxury labels such as Nina Ricci, Chloe, Christian Dior and Cerruti 1881.

The latter brands have been floating around Israel for several years and can be found in upmarket outlets all over the country, but Guy Laroche has been brought in only sporadically by private importers.

The exciting thing about Guy Laroche is that the company's recently appointed creativity manager is Shenkar graduate Albert Elbaz.

A former resident of Holon, Elbaz, 35 — who wasn't born when Guy Laroche launched his fashion house in 1957 — flew home a couple of months ago for the official opening of Premier and will probably return for major showings.

As yet, none of the clothes in the store are of his design, but the upcoming fall/winter collection will definitely include his input.

Before moving to Paris, Elbaz spent

several years in New York, most of them working for one of America's leading designers, Geoffrey Beene.

Norwithstanding the enviable achievements of fellow expatriate Israelis such as Elie Tahari and the Nakash brothers, Elbaz can arguably be called the most successful of all Israeli designers. Fashion-conscious locals are certainly waiting with bated breath for the new season's collections to see his impact on men's and ladies' fashions.

But even before Elbaz, Guy Laroche clothing merited a second look, particularly by people who value quality as much as style. The sample items on view at Premier's triple-story salon are clean-lined, uncluttered and unmistakably stamped with French chic.

Personally, I was more taken with the menswear lines, especially the elegantly

finished buttonholes on the sleeves of suit jackets and the splendid cut of the shirts. But I was assured that I will be equally enchanted by the less conservative women's garments, which should be in stock by late August.

Even if one is "just looking," a visit to Premier is worthwhile, if for no other reason than to experience a very un-Israeli attitude to customer service. Sofas are provided for accompanying relatives or friends who are waiting for the purchaser to make a selection and light refreshments are provided for bona-fide customers and their escorts.

Tiny extras perhaps, but they make a big difference.

By the way you don't have to be rich to shop at Premier. Although suits and dresses are priced in excess of NIS 2,000, prices for accessories start at under NIS 100.

Eaters, beware!

By SUZANNE ROSTLER

While the US is believed to have the world's most stringent laws when it comes to food safety, more Americans than ever before are suffering from foodborne diseases, health experts say.

Salmonella, E. coli and cyclospora are just some of the pathogens that have turned up recently in the US food supply, causing everything from mild stomach cramps to chronic liver disease, paralysis and even death. The incidents have called attention to a rise in the number and severity of food-related illnesses over the past 20 years, prompting new federal food safety initiatives designed to halt the surge.

"Food poisoning is not just a bellyache anymore," Caroline Smith DeWaal, director of food safety with the private consumer health group Centers for Science in the Public Interest said. "Bacteria and pathogens are tougher and stronger and they are surviving efforts to kill them."

Some scientists deny that the US food supply has become more contaminated, or that enforcement is lax. Rather, better laboratory techniques for identifying

city health department that decides which regulations to adopt and how to enforce them. The result can be a lack of uniformity that leaves consumers in some areas vulnerable to bacteria and disease.

"It is very random," said CSPI's Elizabeth Dahl, who led a national survey last year on food safety in restaurants.

"[Food safety] depends on what county, city or state you happen to live in, how well the local department is funded, and which standards it chooses to enforce."

The FDA's Madden agreed that limited resources can mean fewer restaurant inspections but he said most health departments adopt the entire code or the major portions.

Still, three years after the widely publicized deaths of three children from eating hamburgers contaminated by E. coli at a national restaurant chain, a third of health departments surveyed did not set a minimum cooking standard for ground beef. Only 31 percent enforced the recommended cooking temperature for pork, while 89 percent did not follow the FDA's advice on refrigerator temperatures.

"Food poisoning is not just a bellyache anymore. Bacteria and pathogens are tougher and stronger and they are surviving efforts to kill them."

foodborne diseases have fostered the illusion that the number is on the rise.

"If doctors know cyclospora is out there they will ask for the test," Maria Ackers, a medical epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said. "It is always hard to tell if we are seeing more of something or if surveillance has increased."

Better detection may be part of the story, but increased food imports, more frequent restaurant dining and greater use of animal antibiotics are also to blame. Scientists say several of the bacteria that infect farm animals have become resistant to certain antibiotics. When these organisms infect humans, they are harder to fight because of their acquired resistance.

"An infection a physician would have treated with an antibiotic in the past may not respond today," Joseph Madden, a microbiologist with the Food and Drug Administration, said.

Other health experts blame the trend on a steady increase in restaurant dining, exposing more Americans to contaminated food more often. CSPI said 46 percent of all food dollars were spent in restaurants in 1993, up from 27 percent in 1960.

"Consumers are eating out more than ever before and they are relying on restaurants to control the safety of their food," Smith DeWaal said.

That is precisely what worries health experts, who charge that inspection and enforcement standards are lax.

While the FDA issues safety recommendations every two years addressing everything from cooking temperatures to hand washing, it is the state, county or

"The enforcement of basic food safety requirements should not be optional," Smith DeWaal said. "Consumers are paying for lax enforcement with unacceptably high numbers of foodborne illnesses."

The private Council for Agricultural Science and Technology says as many as 33 million foodborne illnesses occur each year and up to 9,000 people die as a result.

Medical and productivity costs associated with foodborne diseases range from \$6.5 billion to \$35b. a year, Tanya Roberts, an economist with the US Department of Agriculture, said. "We are no longer going to the pathogens, the pathogens are coming to us," she said, adding that food imports allow contaminants to spread swiftly from one country to another.

Just one infected food handler could transmit bacteria to thousands of people across the globe, as was seen this year when 236 people in the US contracted hepatitis A and thousands of others became sick after eating contaminated strawberries from Mexico.

Economic and human costs associated with food-related illnesses have spotlighted the need for more effective safety procedures on all fronts. In January, President Bill Clinton asked Congress to earmark \$43 million towards a national food safety initiative that would reinforce existing food safety programs and allow health experts to identify outbreaks early.

About \$23 million will be used to upgrade FDA inspection, research and risk assessment facilities for seafood. The USDA will use \$8.5 million for similar meat and poultry programs. (Reuters)

CAVEAT EMPTOR!

By RUTHIE BLUM

Last year, I wrote about one of my particular pet peeves: the wooing of consumers through advertising gimmicks aimed at children.

Clearly I am not alone in my irritation at such marketing techniques, since the Consumer Protection Law dedicates a whole chapter to this very subject. And though, technically, seducing us via our offspring is against the law in this country, the "gray" area regarding what constitutes violating this law seems to be so vast as to make the whole thing pretty ridiculous.

Anyone with children must surely be suffering from the Coke-cup scam. Even geniuses in child-rearing are likely to be having a tough time withstanding their children's pleading glances on a grocery shopping trip. Particularly when the kids swear that they only want the product because they crave its taste.

And so it was for H.B., who was visiting Israel with his three young sons. At a kiosk at one of the Dead Sea spas, H.B. purchased a bag of Elite potato chips — one of those bags of potato chips with the shiny ribbon attached to the outside, enticing the consumer with the

lure of hidden cash.

Lo and behold, while munching away at the snack, H.B.'s son actually came across a voucher for NIS 20! So rare an event was this that even the owner of the kiosk was taken aback. And since H.B. was unable to read the fine print — in Hebrew, no less — the kiosk owner was kind enough to translate it for him.

What the voucher stated was that the cash could be obtained either from a postal bank, or from any number of Elite shops (the locations of which were listed on the back).

The next day, while strolling along Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall, H.B. came across an Elite shop. In he traipsed — his three young lads in tow — to collect his cash.

"Sorry, not in here" was the response of the saleswoman. "Try in our shop on Jaffa Road."

So H.B. continued on his trek in the blazing heat, to show his children that grown-ups mean what they say, even when they are marketing moguls. To no avail. H.B. was greeted by a similar "not in here" response from the Jaffa Road saleswoman as well.

Oh well, thought H.B., trying not to despair, other Elite shops will turn up.

Indeed, en route to Cairo the next day, H.B. ran smack into an Elite shop in Ben-Gurion Airport. Here again, however, the saleswoman gave a curt "not in here," and sent him to another Elite shop in the airport.

Obediently, H.B. went on to the next, much larger, shop. The saleswoman's rude response: "Not in here" was followed by "Stop wasting my time!" when he asked if she could assist him in his search. And this is in spite of the fact that the voucher specifically lists Ben-Gurion Airport as one of the collection points (though you practically need a magnifying glass to decipher this).

H.B. was outraged on behalf of his children. "It's bad enough that not a single Elite employee bothered to say 'congratulations' to the kids for having won the prize."

But to be treated rudely, all because we were trying to locate the right place to be given the money, that was just inexcusable.

Gidi Landsberger, Elite marketing manager in the savory products' division, agreed that there is no excuse for rudeness on the part of Elite employees, whom he claims are given strict instructions to be courteous to customers. Expressing my personal

indignation — more as the mother of four prize-hungry kids than as a consumer columnist — I extracted a promise from Mr. Landsberger that a memo would be distributed among all Elite salespeople insisting that they exhibit gracious behavior, especially towards young children.

After all — I raised my voice to a shrill pitch — children are the target of all of these marketing maneuvers.

And when their business is being courted, butter wouldn't melt in the mouth of the marketers. I just want to make sure that the same sugary sweetness is applied after the sought-after shekels have been handed over. Mr. Landsberger gave his word.

He also sent a 20-shekel note to the hotel room of H.B. and his family, along with a letter of apology and a parcel of Elite products of the savory-treat variety.

"Whenever a customer complains," said Landsberger, "we investigate the complaint, and compensate the consumer." Good news indeed.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, P.O.B. 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

PEOPLE

come in different shapes and sizes

...the long and the short and the tall and they come with different talents and ambitions, and they come rich and poor and mostly in between. And some come, usually through no fault of their own, disadvantaged.

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For nearly fifty years, readers of The Jerusalem Post, both in Israel and in some 100 countries around the world have been sending money to help those less fortunate.

The Forsake Me Not fund, together with social workers and volunteers in the field, use your donations to help old folks living in distressed circumstances.

With your help we've been able to alleviate suffering and provide a little hope.

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THURSDAY JUL 10 1997

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July 10, 1997

BUSINESS & FINANCE

11

BUSINESS

in brief

Korean delegation due Saturday

A delegation of senior officials from South Korea's Ministry of Industry, Trade and Energy will arrive here on Saturday for a four-day visit. The 13-member delegation, which will be headed by Man-Gi Paik, director-general of South Korea's technology policy bureau, will explore joint venture possibilities in the energy and technology sectors. Other participants include the director of the Samsung Advanced Institute of Technology, oil corporation Caltex, the Korean Electric Power Corporation and representatives of LG, a large Korean conglomerate. *Jennifer Friedman*

Kleiner to head coalition at finance committee

MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet) has been appointed to replace Silvan Shalom (Likud) as the leader of the government group in the Knesset Finance Committee. With Shalom's appointment as deputy defense minister, Kleiner takes over the post - which gives him first right of speech in debates. Committee officials say that for the time being Kleiner will also continue to chair the Insurance sub-committee. *David Harris*

'Lot's Wife' boat for sale

Lot's Wife, the boat plying the Dead Sea, is for sale, the director of the company announced yesterday. Motti Gonen said that with the current tourism slump, the company, which is made up of three partners and a public company, either needed an investor or would have to be sold. The situation was made worse, he said, by the failure to obtain an expected permit to sail to Jordan. Gonen said the company was worth about \$300,000. *Haim Shapiro*

MKs, Generali agree on \$12m. Holocaust fund

By DAVID HARRIS

Knesset Members and Italian insurance giant Assicurazioni Generali made their peace yesterday as they shook hands over the establishment of a \$12 million fund for the families of policy holders killed in the Holocaust.

Generali chairman Gianfranco Guty told Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) the payments from the fund will strike a balance between *ex gratia* payments to families and a variety of

Holocaust-related institutions. MKs, led by insurance sub-committee chairman Michael Kleiner (Geshet), were at loggerheads with the company which refused to pay out on policies purchased in Eastern Europe. Generali continues to argue these policies are no longer in its hands as its assets were seized by communist regimes.

Clearly still upset by Generali's approach to the issue, Kleiner again blasted the company's claim that it had "no moral obligation" to the families, but added it is now time for bygones to be bygones.

Ne'eman: Central bank should move closer to Treasury's views

By DAVID HARRIS and Jerusalem Post Staff

"The Bank of Israel should be closer to the Treasury, not geographically but spiritually," Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman said yesterday during his first ministerial speech, which was addressed to both senior Treasury civil servants and journalists. He made this remark after meeting Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel twice during the day. The first was a private meeting between the two for an overview of the economy and the second was with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his office.

Bank of Israel spokesman Gabi Fisman said he doesn't see anything out of the ordi-

nary in Ne'eman's comment and said there was no need to respond to it.

Ne'eman comes to the Treasury after a bitter dispute between his predecessor and Frenkel concerning the central bank's strong-shekel policies, which played a role in Meridor's resignation last month.

Describing himself as a professional, Ne'eman said he has the full backing of Netanyahu, support that Meridor said he failed to receive.

A statement from Netanyahu described the latter meeting as being held in an atmosphere of cooperation, with discussions focusing on progress toward economic growth and liberalization targets while also maintaining stability. The three agreed to

hold a series of working meetings during the coming weeks.

This morning Ne'eman was scheduled to begin working meetings with senior ministry officials, led by director-general Shmuel Slavin, who told reporters that work on the planned NIS 600 million budget cut would begin in earnest next week. Ne'eman said he expects to hear full details on future programs from his team of civil servants.

From as early as next week Ne'eman said he intends to implement some of those ideas, as well as some of his own.

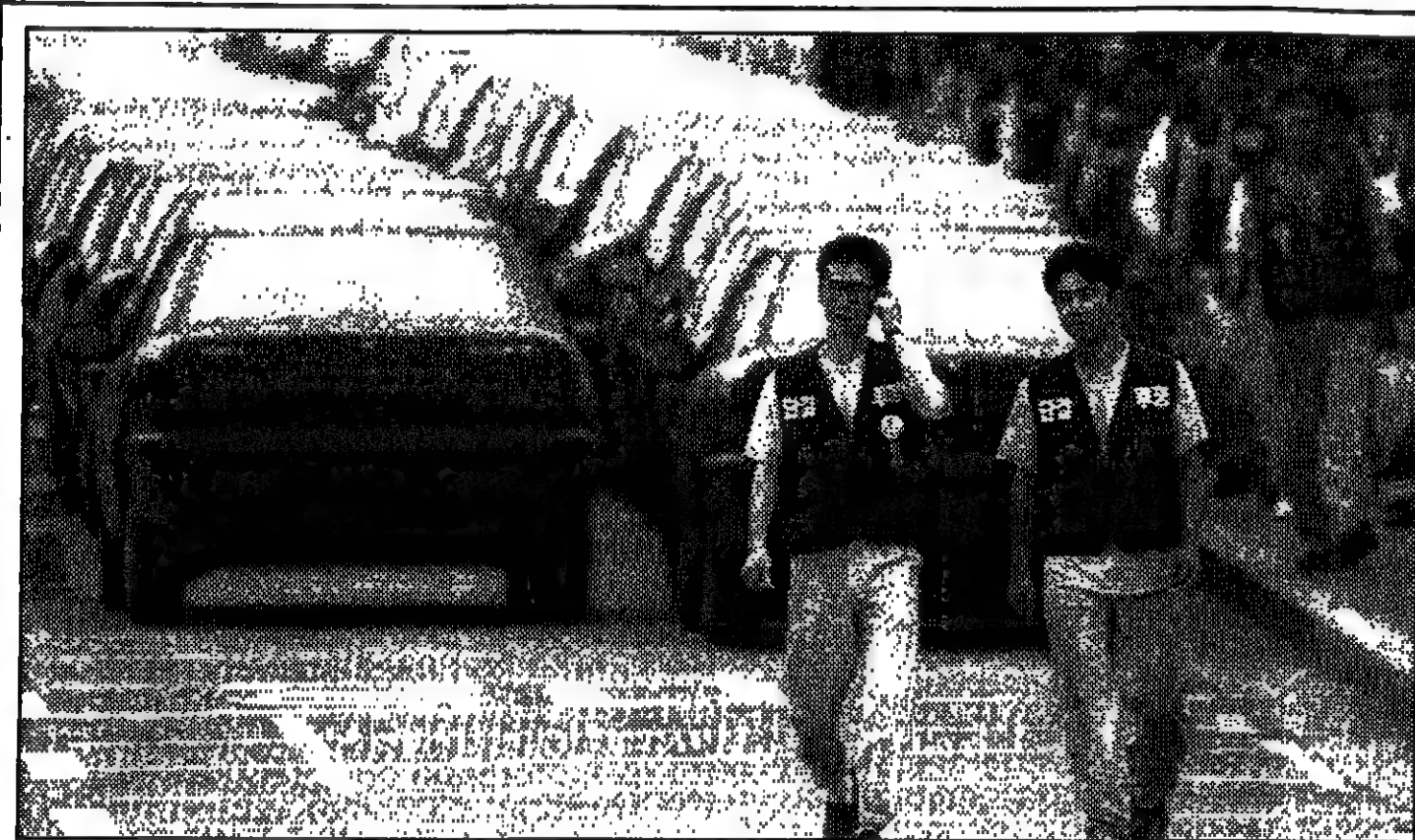
"We have difficult tasks ahead," said Ne'eman, who was not prepared to answer specific questions about the current state of

the economy or his plans for its recovery.

These tasks must be approached with "responsibly" and "caution," he urged. "We will try to base the program on increasing growth, and I'm not speaking about harsh measures."

Asked about the coalition demands for added funds as a part of the recent wave of appointments and agreements, Ne'eman said it is possible to pay for anything if there is money in the bank, something he will be checking in the coming days.

Until August 15, Ne'eman indicated he will be continuing his work as chairman of the public committee on conversion, which he quipped is an even tougher job than that of finance minister.



South Korean motor strike

Striking South Korean workers walk past rows of cars at the Daewoo Motors plant in Bupyeong, South Korea, yesterday. More than 10,000 employees at the plant came out on strike yesterday. (Reuters)

GM, Elbit to discuss joint R&D

By JENNIFER FRIEDMAN

General Motors, the world's largest industrial corporation, will send a delegation of engineers to visit defense manufacturer Elbit and research ways of incorporating military technology into GM cars and trucks, Harold Kutner, GM's vice president of worldwide purchasing, said yesterday.

"Elbit is a leading high-tech company, and we want to know if there are ways to take defense technology and translate it into parts for cars and trucks," said Kutner, who is currently in Israel to explore potential deals. He added that he is particularly interested in the possibility of adapting military safety systems.

It would take one or two years to develop such technology, Kutner said.

Israeli products comprise \$36m. of the \$70b. in purchases the company makes annually, placing Israel far behind countries such as Brazil, Germany and France, which supply GM with the bulk of its goods and services. However, Kutner said business with Israeli firms could grow significantly due to the high quality of Israeli products.

After visiting the Dead Sea Works yesterday, Kutner said there is "great potential" for a long-term supply agreement for magnesium. GM is also planning to explore deals with other unnamed high-tech companies.

Universal Motors Israel, which distributes GM cars locally, also conducts research into new technologies and advises GM on ways that it can use local technologies to make cars and trucks more efficient.

UMI sells about 15,000 GM vehicles in Israel per year. During his visit, Kutner, who is here as part of a United Jewish Appeal program known as Partnership 2000, met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Minister of Industry and Trade Nathan Sharansky.

Earlier in the week he met with automotive parts suppliers in Nazareth Illit.

Trade deficit down 22% to \$4.3b.

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The trade deficit for the first six months of 1997 totaled \$4.3 billion, a 22 percent drop compared with the same period last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The figures are based on exports worth \$10.2b. and imports worth \$14.5b. This semi-annual figure shows a slowdown in export growth from 0.5% a month last year to 0.2% in recent months.

In annual terms, the increase is heading for 2.5%, compared to 6.5% in 1996. At the same time, the growth in imports (excluding ships, airplanes, diamonds and fuel) has registered a monthly 0.25% rise since February, compared to

a decline of 1% a month from March 1996 until January.

Despite the semi-annually calculated improvement, the trade deficit has increased at a monthly 0.5%, following a decline of 3.9% a month in the March to January period.

The June deficit reached \$770 million, as a result of the slowdown in the growth of exports and a slight increase in imports. Imports totaled \$2.43b., of which 45% was raw materials (excluding diamonds and fuel), 15% investment goods, 14% consumer items and the remainder diamonds and fuel.

Exports last month stood at \$1.66b., 75% of which comprised industrial goods and software,

23% diamonds and 3% agricultural produce.

The trade deficit, along with the budget and current account deficits, has been haunting the economy during the past four years of rapid economic growth.

Newly appointed Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman is expected to support his predecessor's plan to cut NIS 600 million from the budget, a move designed to further accentuate the government's struggle to meet its goal of a 2.8% ratio between the gross domestic product and the budget deficit.

A smaller budget ultimately results in a narrower trade deficit, since it entails a reduction in imports.

Texaco appoints its first black woman director

WHITE PLAINS, New York (AP) - Texaco Inc. has nominated Mary K. Bush, president of an international consulting firm, to be the first black woman on its board of directors.

Peter Bijur, Texaco's chairman, said Monday the nomination is part of Texaco's "continuing effort to bring a diverse array of ideas and talent to the board." Texaco already has one black and one woman on its 12-member board.

"This is very much a step in the right direction," said Tim Smith, executive director of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility. The group was among the sponsors of an unsuccessful proposal at this year's shareholder meeting calling for greater diversity on the board.

Texaco's racial policies became the subject of widespread debate last year with the release of tape recordings on which company officers allegedly belittled black employees and plotted to destroy evidence in a race discrimination case. The case was quickly settled for a record \$176 million. Criminal prosecutions are pending.

Bush, 49, is president of Bush and Co., a Washington firm that advises government and corporate clients on financial strategies. She also is host of *Markets and Technology*, a national cable television show on global business.

She has been managing director of the Federal Housing Board, vice president for international finance at the Federal National Mortgage Association and US alternate executive director of the International Monetary Fund.

ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY HEAD OFFICE COMMERCE & PROPERTIES DEPARTMENT TENDER No. C.M. 11/97

To receive a concession to provide services in the passenger terminals for international flights at Elat, Ovd and Haifa airports, and at the border crossings, for the storage and sale of duty- and/or tax-free goods, being cosmetics, perfumes, and toiletries, spirits and wines, cigarettes and tobacco products, electronic and electrical products, optical products, watches, apparel, souvenirs, toys, luggage, etc. (as set forth below), to passengers departing Israel, to United Nations personnel and diplomats, as well as the delivery to tourists departing Israel of the duty- and/or tax-free goods included among said goods which were purchased in the shops of the bidder, in the commercial centers/shops in the cities, all pursuant to the approval of the Customs Authorities.

- A. The bidder must be a corporation, lawfully registered in Israel or in the country in which it conducts its business which, by itself and in the business which it owns and manages, fulfills all of the following:
 - Possesses, operates and manages retail shops for the sale of duty- and/or tax-free goods to and consumers, according to a valid license from the authorities concerned with the matter, all in the last three consecutive years, prior to the date of the commencement of the provision of the services, and whose cumulative annual sales turnover, during the last three consecutive years which preceded the date of submission of bids in the tender, was at least \$5,000,000 (five million dollars), calculated according to the average representative rate of exchange of the dollar in every year of those years.
 - Possesses, operates and manages retail shops for the sale of perfumes and cosmetic products to and consumers, all in the last three consecutive years, prior to the date of the commencement of the provision of the services, and whose cumulative annual sales turnover, in the aforesaid product group, during the last three consecutive years which preceded the date of submission of bids in the tender, was at least \$5,000,000 (five million dollars), calculated according to the average representative rate of exchange of the dollar in every year of those years.
 - Possesses, operates and manages retail shops for the sale of at least three product groups from the following product groups: electronic and electrical products, cosmetic products and perfumes, spirits and wines, cigarettes and tobacco products - including smoking accessories - all in the last three consecutive years, prior to the date of the commencement of the provision of the services, and whose sales turnover in the required product groups, during the last three consecutive years which preceded the date of submission of bids in the tender, was at least \$5,000,000 (five million dollars), calculated according to the average representative rate of exchange of the dollar in every year of those years.
- B. Has proven international business connections.
- A bid in the tender can be submitted jointly by a number of bidders, provided that the portion of the bidders' experience and cumulative annual sales turnover which meet the requirements of subparagraph 1(A) above is at least 67% of the joint corporation which the bidders establish, for the purpose of participation in the tender, and/or which they undertake to establish.
- The period of the engagement is for three years, beginning on September 1, 1997, and ending on August 31, 2000. The Authority is entitled, at its sole, complete and final discretion, to extend the contract term for two consecutive terms of up to 12 months each, or for one additional term only of up to 24 months.
- The tender documents may be obtained, beginning on Monday, July 14, 1997, in the Commerce and Properties Department of the Israel Airports Authority, in the main building, 2nd floor, during ordinary working hours, after the applicant has submitted a written application, specifying therein its contact person, telephone number, and fax number, and has made payment in cash or by bank check of the amount of NIS4,000 (four thousand New Israeli Shekels) which includes Value Added Tax. Said amount will not be refunded.
- The Authority will conduct tours for purchases of the tender documents, only on Wednesday, July 23, 1997, at 10:00 a.m., and on Tuesday, July 29, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. The bid, in accordance with the requirements stated in the tender documents, must be deposited in the tender box, located in the Records and Documentation Department (Archives) at the head office of the Israel Airports Authority at Ben-Gurion Airport, by Thursday, August 14, 1997, at 10:00 a.m.
- The Israel Airports Authority does not undertake to accept the highest or any bid whatsoever.

PRIME **פריים**
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 8.7.97

Purchase Price: 117.74

Redemption Price: 116.20

למכירה בלבד

(מחוד) TARGET OXIO
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 8.7.97

Purchase Price: 131.22

Redemption Price: 129.29

On 6/7/97, the Target Mutual Fund distributed a 38% stock dividend.

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Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

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U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.625	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (8.7.97)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**	
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell		
Currency basket	3.8463	3.9104	—	3.8701	—
U.S. dollar	3.5454	3.6026	3.48	3.5680	—
German mark	2.0216	2.0549	1.98	2.0254	—
Pound sterling	6.0024	6.0585	5.89	6.0189	—
French franc	0.5905	0.6082	0.58	0.6003	—
Japanese yen (100)	3.1468	3.1976	3.09	3.1663	—
Dutch florin	1.7958	1.8246	1.76	1.7988	—
Swiss franc	2.4233	2.4674	2.38	2.4360	—
Swedish krona	0.4554	0.4638	0.44	0.4503	—
Norwegian krona	0.4638	0.4917	0.47	0.4852	—
Danish krone	0.5309	0.5395	0.52	0.5319	—
Finnish mark	0.5794	0.5794	0.56	0.5825	—
Canadian dollar	2.5729	2.6144	2.52	2.6008	—
Australian dollar	2.6989	2.7786	2.59	2.72	2.6544
S. African rand	0.7755	0.7911	0.70	0.782	0.7826
Belgian franc (10)	0.5957	0.5957	0.58	0.5913	—
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8727	2.9191	2.82	2.8788	—
Italian lire (1000)	2.0781	2.0986	2.04	2.0787	—
Jordanian dinar	5.0006	5.0713	4.84	5.0888	—
Egyptian pound	1.0100	1.0100	1.01	1.1153	—
ECU	3.9798	4.0490	—	3.9824	—
Irish punt	5.3768	5.4634	5.28	5.4124	—
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3926	2.4512	2.36	2.3984	—

*These rates vary according to bank.

**Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

DRIVE CAREFULLY

No Dumping

Egypt's producers are suffering from low-priced imports

CAIRO, (Reuters) - Egyptian industrialists, hit by imports after decades of protectionism, are looking to the government's small anti-dumping department for relief.

But in many cases the department is giving them the cold shoulder, saying their case is not strong enough and their companies will have to sink or swim in a competitive market.

The pace of dumping, complaints has quickened through the 1990s as the government cuts import tariffs as part of a classic economic liberalization program approved by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Egyptian tariffs remain high by world standards, at 16 percent of the total cost of imports, but even at this level, some industries find it hard to keep their heads above water.

Newspapers are full of reports on dumped imports - those sold at below production cost - threatening domestic producers of everything from steel reinforcement bars to sugar, clothing to macaroni.

"Anti-dumping has become the most popular trade remedy among the industrialized countries... Developing countries have also joined the trend," Haiyang Zhao, an economics professor at the University of Hong Kong, told a recent seminar.

But a government official, who declined to be named, told Reuters, "Most cases are not strong enough to take measures... There is no protection for bad industries."

"We are for good (local) producers, whose products can compete locally and abroad," added the head of parliament's industry committee, Amin Mubarak.

"We are not for producers who produce bad or expensive products due to mismanagement, overstaffing or other factors. We are not with them and cannot encourage them," he told Reuters.

So far the anti-dumping department, set up in the Ministry of Trade and Supply in 1992 has taken its most decisive action in the case of stainless steel sink imports from Europe.

"The Greek firm Pyramis and the Spanish firm TEKA were informed in March that an investigation into their exports of sinks to the Egyptian market has started," an official said.

In a major case now in the

works, the department has recommended anti-dumping duties on steel sheets imported from eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics, which sell at much lower prices than the local equivalents.

"The prices of final (steel) products from the former Soviet Union have nothing to do with real prices," said Ahmed Ezz,

chairman of the Ezz Group, one of two complainants against imports of steel reinforcement bars.

The specialist weekly newspaper *al-Boursa* said Egypt would impose a 20 percent duty, but the official said it would be lower.

It was up to the competent authorities to decide, he added.

The department, however, refused to start an investigation into a complaint by the Egyptian state's Sugar and Integrated Industries Company (SIIC), traditionally the country's sole producer of refined sugar.

The sugar company complained that private importers were undercutting their prices on the local sugar market.

"I don't protect a producer, I protect an industry," said Sayyed Abu al-Qumsan, the head of the foreign trade department in the Trade and Supply Ministry.

"In the sugar case, I must be fully neutral, because one monopolist (SIIC) stands against over 400 local plants using this product and over 60 million individual consumers."

"The world price declined, so what? For once let us respect the (Egyptian) consumer," Abu al-Qumsan told Reuters.

In the old days, the state company would have complained directly to the government, which would probably have responded with a temporary duty on cheap imports. Now Egyptian companies have to go through the anti-dumping complaint procedure and back up their claims with figures. Some still find it difficult to put their case together.

"Dumping complaints are recent in Egypt, and we don't have enough experience to file complete complaints," said an executive in the steel industry.

The government official also cited cases where dumping accusations were difficult to announce for political reasons.

"There are political decisions that prevent taking any measures, as in the case of Libyan or Saudi steel," he added.

WORLD BEAT

WITH ESMAT SALAHEDDIN

Housing isn't everything

Going against the local industry's grain, mortgage specialist Bank of Jerusalem is in the process of diversifying into a fully fledged commercial bank

By DORIT BAR

The Bank of Jerusalem is charting its own course through the turbulent waters of Israeli banking. While the prevailing current in most of the banking sector is for banks to more closely define, and often to reduce, the scope of their activities - reflecting a combination of economic forces, growing competition and the impact of new technologies - The Bank of Jerusalem is in the process of changing from a narrowly based mortgage bank to a full commercial bank.

The bank's name has already been changed to reflect its new focus. The former Jerusalem Mortgage Bank was, until recently, involved almost exclusively in mortgage-related business, as one would expect. Once it decided to broaden its range of specializations to include three new fields, namely private banking for foreign residents, real-estate financing and capital-market activities, it was both natural and necessary for the name to become less specific, hence the Bank of Jerusalem.

The bank's traditional activities centered on granting mortgage loans to Israelis with rights for government-subsidized loans. The bank also engaged in the extension of long-term, index-linked bank credit, and provided project financing to contractors of housing projects in which the client base was similar to the bank's general market. On the funding side, it raised capital by selling bonds to institutional investors.

But, as the government reduced its level of involvement in housing loans and cut the budgets earmarked for this purpose, profit ratios dropped and management realized that it had to branch out into new areas if it was to retain a respectable level of profitability. At the same time, the financial markets have become far more competitive, leaving no room for a small, independent bank marketing a single product.

Aside from increasing profits, the bank's new business philosophy is aimed at reducing risk - in one way by reducing its exposure to the cyclical nature of the housing market - and enhancing competitiveness and efficiency. The principle behind these aims, and upon which the bank believes these aims can be reached, is the development of four profit centers in place of the single one in operation hitherto. The plan is for the profit from mortgage activities, which until now has constituted 100 percent of profits, to comprise only 55% of total profits within a few years.

Zalman Shoval, chairman of the board of directors, says that the bank has entered a new era. The implementation of a policy of defined and controlled expansion will enhance the bank's level of competitiveness and will increase its share of business within the Israeli banking sector. Shoval notes that the emerging trend world over is one where an ever-widening range and combination of financial services is being offered, and the Bank of Jerusalem is responding to this call by moving into fields in which it has a comparative advantage.



Bank of Jerusalem's David Bloomberg: "Within five years, we want to have doubled our profits." (IPPA)

One key element in the adoption of the new business outlook has been the acquisition of the Unitrust brokerage firm, whose name has been changed to Jerusalem Capital Markets. The brokerage is a full and veteran member of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and, apart from share trading, is active in the fields of portfolio management for institutional investors and for domestic and foreign clients, as well as mutual-fund management and managing new share issues. The Bank of Jerusalem is placing the capital market at the center of its future activities, underlining its belief in the long-term attractiveness of the Israeli market.

The bank's corporate division, which has offices in both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, has also extended its project-financing activities in the construction industry and has prepared an operational infrastructure that will enable the extension of commercial credit. In addition, it has set up its own insurance agency, *Ir Shalem*, and initiated a line of deposit and savings accounts for the local market.

But perhaps the most crucial of the new activities is the development of an international division. Shoval says that a strong emphasis will be placed on foreign residents. "Our aim is to offer our clients asset-management services which will include varied investment options - deposits, securities, both in Israel and abroad, and more."

To this end, the Bank of Jerusalem has obtained a license authorizing it to trade in foreign currency and is in the process of refurbishing a building in the heart of Jerusalem to serve as its International Private Banking center. This unit has started making foreign-currency mortgage loans as well as accepting foreign-currency deposits from foreign residents.

The granting of a full commercial banking license is expected in the near future, and will put the seal on the bank's transformation.

These new ventures have necessitated the recruitment of top-level professionals onto the bank's roster. These include General Manager Ya'acov Eisner, Head of the Savings and Loans Department Yo'el Nardi, Head of International Banking Stuart Hershkovitz and Alex Goldberg, head of Jerusalem Capital Markets.

Shoval stresses that "all the developments up till now have been achieved with existing capital. Export Investment Corporation (owned by the Mayer family) currently holds 80% of the bank's equity, so when the need arises to raise further capital, it can be done without affecting the control structure." In fact, although the new business strategy is primarily the

creation of another new arrival at the bank, Vice-Chairman David Bloomberg, Shoval notes that private banking is not a new concept for the Mayer group as a whole. "As early as the 1960s, then within the framework of the Export Bank (which later merged with others to form First International Bank), we were among the first institutions that attempted to introduce private banking," he recalls. He adds that the reason for failure was the absolute control that the government had at the time over the capital and money markets, a state of affairs that has been sharply curtailed over the past decade.

Shoval, of course, is best known as a Likud politician and former Israeli ambassador to the UN. It is therefore not surprising to hear that, unlike others, Shoval does not believe that there has been a decrease in the readiness to invest and do business in Israel, whether by Jews or non-Jews.

He says that "the business world is very alert and has the ability to see the long-term picture. They believe that a political agreement will eventually be reached and therefore temporary upsets, however severe they may be, do not put them off."

Vice-Chairman David Bloomberg, former CEO of Mizrahi Bank and of mortgage giant Bank Tefahot, says that only a very few of the banking institutions in the country actually define themselves and their strategy, although many of them need to do so. He emphasizes that it is the actual definition of business activities and the

branching out to four sectors that is important.

"Within five years, we want to have doubled our profits and attain a 15% return on equity."

Bloomberg asserts that the bank's name - Jerusalem - has huge appeal and is therefore a major asset. At the same time, he recognizes that it is also somewhat problematic, as the name presumes to define a limited geographical area in which the bank operates. This is of course not true, and a recent publicity campaign was designed to highlight the bank's 20 branches scattered throughout the country.

But the appeal of the name was emphasized when, two months after the bank had changed from Jerusalem Mortgage Bank to the Bank of Jerusalem, an Arab bank applied to the Supervisor of Banks to receive the name Jerusalem Bank, only to find the slot filled.

Bloomberg adds that the classical or old-style mortgage bank was characterized by the fact that its customers had a one-off relationship with the bank, namely arranging a mortgage. "We are now trying to create a situation whereby clients will deal with the bank not only when they need a mortgage, but throughout their financial life cycle," he says. "We would like to be able to extend a number of different loans, for car purchases, household renovations, children's education and the like. I believe that the 65,000 clients we already have constitute an interesting platform for the introduction of retail activities, without the need for current accounts."

With regards to the capital market, Bloomberg says that in Israel people will always talk and complain about the problems and scandals, but the fact is that over the past 15 years, the Israeli economy has experienced phenomenal growth. This optimism is not limited only to the capital market, but also applies to the real-estate market: "The large advantage in Israel is the fact that the housing market is fundamentally both constant and very firm." He does not foresee a large drop in prices. "There may be a downward price correction, but not a crash in prices, and this due to the fact that in Israel there is virtually no inventory construction and the supply matches demand as it arises."

In fact, according to Bloomberg, while the market was booming, supply could not keep up with growing demand. In his opinion, though, over the current year we can expect a drop in activity, with only about 40,000 building starts and 150,000 transactions, a trend that shows that supply is rapidly adjusting itself to a reduced level of demand.

SMART SHOPPING

Bedtime Story

Choosing the right mattress can end the nightmare of sleeplessness

By RACHEL NEWMAN

Tossing and turning in the heat of a sweltering night is a common summer phenomenon. Next time it happens, since you can't sleep anyway, consider the following: According to the US National Commission on Sleep Disorders, adults today are getting 20 percent less sleep than they did 100 years ago.

Not to worry. Amnon Schwartz, general manager of the Aminach group, a brand name furniture manufacturer which has become synonymous with mattresses, is dedicated to making the best of this tiresome problem. Based on the assumption that the quality of those 6-8 hours can make up for the loss in quantity, Aminach has founded an in-house sleep research laboratory, intended to come up with practical applications for product development. In conducting its research, Aminach, like the King Koil company, has been working closely with the International Chiropractors Association for many years.

Israelis like spring mattresses, which are quite a change from the foam mattresses of 20 years ago. Schwartz attributes this change to the overall rise in the standard of living. "There used to be foam mattresses in Europe as well, but today there are almost none sold there."

Mattresses have also gotten wider. "The 120-cm. width used to be the most popular. Today, it's 140 cm-150 cm. Even young people want what's called a bed-and-a-half (a 120 cm.-wide single bed)." And money - within reason - is no object. Israelis, he says, are willing to pay well for a good night's sleep.

Aminach manufactures under license to King Koil and Serta. "People prefer the spring mattress"

ability to air itself out. There's no mildew problem, and it doesn't fall apart after prolonged exposure to UV rays."

Schwartz categorizes mattresses made under the Aminach brand name as "basic," King Koil as "mid-range" and Serta as "top of the line."

How are these classifications measured? Schwartz says it's a question of the grade of materials used, and production quality, in terms of design, manufacturing and finish.

In most spring mattresses, the metal spring unit inside is composed of hundreds of wire metal coils held together either by wire (as in the conventional coil system) or individual cloth pockets. The gauge, or thickness, of the wire from which the inner-spring coils are made, affects the flexibility of each coil, which ultimately determines the level of mattress firmness. The thicker, heavier gauge wires are firmer and less flexible. The more flexible a wire coil is, the more it will contour to individual body parts.

Coil count, or the number of coils in a mattress, is also important. Inner-spring mattresses with a high coil count fit and conform better to the body. More contouring generally means more overall comfort.

Polyester fabric, such as polyolefin, is the material most commonly used to cover mattresses. According to the FabricLink resource for fabrics and textiles, polyolefin is "lightweight; strong; abrasion-resistant; stain-resistant; and odor-resistant; has high insulation characteristics; resists deterioration from chemicals, mildew, perspiration, rot and weather; is fast drying and non-allergenic." In short, it's a dream fabric in terms of ticking mattresses.

Material such as Dacron provides soft cushioning and is generally

found in more expensive, higher quality mattresses. In most cases, the more of this material, the more expensive the mattress will be. It's important to know that soft cushioning doesn't mean a soft mattress. A mattress can have lots of cushioning, yet still have firm inner-spring coils for support.

Inside, polyurethane foam cushioning of different densities and thickness produce different levels of support. Urethane, or furniture foam, is a plastic that loses resiliency and shape over time, one reason why a metal coil mattress, aged 8-10 years, has to be replaced.

Not to be confused with foam rubber, latex has become more popular lately, due to trendy motorized adjustable beds, which require a flexible mattress. Latex is a milky-white liquid composed of rubber particles dispersed in water, whipped with air to form a foam, and frozen in place, sometimes by using fillers or extenders. Natural latex is hypo-allergenic, anti-microbial, dust-mite resistant, and breathes.

There is no quality standard, either local or international, for mattresses. There are standards for the materials used, including a US Consumer Product Safety Commission Standard for the Flammability of Mattresses and Mattress Pads, issued in 1987, to protect the public against risks of fires that have resulted from the ignition of mattresses by cigarettes. Aminach must meet the Israeli standards for polyurethane, metals, and fabric. In manufacturing, says Schwartz, the company has chosen to meet "some US standards."

As far as the company is concerned, they are "the only furniture manufacturer in Israel to meet ISO 9002 production line standards."

Aminach was founded in 1948, in Jaffa by Amnon's father Moshe

Schwartz, who supplied mattresses under contract to the Jewish Agency. In 1956, the company began producing the spring and in 1965, moved to its present location in Nir Zvi.

The Aminach group is a private company, which includes Rim, the Aminach Center and American Comfort chains. The group has 600 workers, including the employees at its 20 stores.

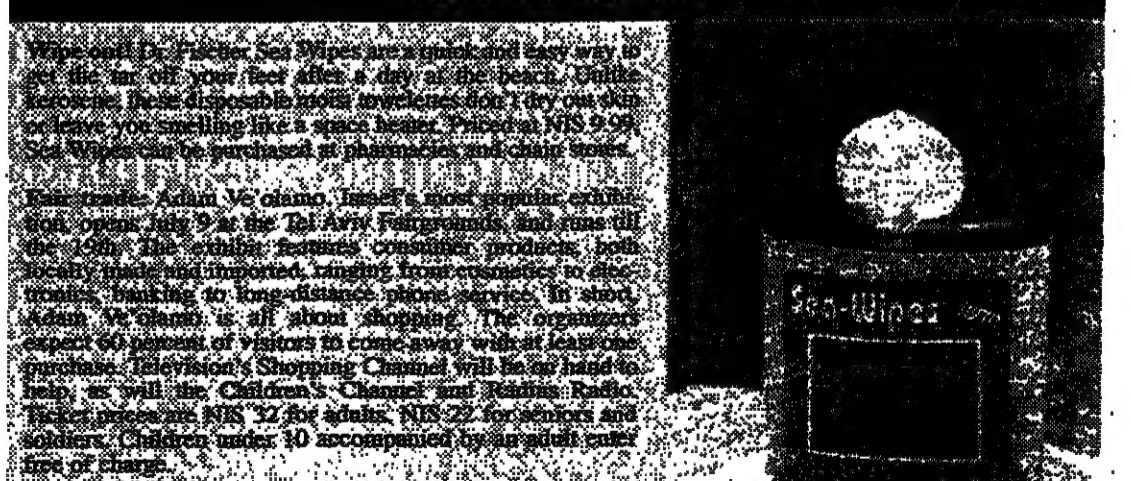
The company also makes so-called "youth sofas," brightly upholstered fold-out sleepers for teens and pre-teens. "Inside, the mattresses are made of the same materials, components and technology as Aminach. Outside, they are very fashion-oriented," says Schwartz.

"Ours is the largest furniture factory and company in Israel. We have five technologies in five factories at Nir Zvi: polyurethane, wood, youth sofas, metal and mattresses. And we have the sleep research laboratory, headed by Prof. Jean Ashkenazi of Tel Aviv University, a specialist in sleep disorders."

The laboratory specializes in sleep research used in product development. "We felt there was great potential for improving products. People today get less sleep, which is exactly [the problem] we're working on."

To be comfortable, the body must be relieved at the pressure points, located at the shoulders, hips, knees, elbows and heels. Under pressure, they cut off circulation to soft tissue. Sleepers toss and turn during the night to relieve pressure and restore blood flow. "When they are comfortable, people turn over less and wake up fewer times during the night. Their quality of sleep improves so they need less sleep. Obviously, the body needs sleep and the brain needs to rest. But, like a battery, if your recharger is good, you need less recharging time."

AT THE MALL



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In these times you cannot
AFFORD to be without
THE JERUSALEM
POST

Alomar's hometown heroics

Cleveland catcher's HR lifts AL to 3-1 All-Star win

CLEVELAND (AP) — Sandy Alomar's hit restored some pride for Cleveland catchers and won the game for the American League 3-1 over the National League on Tuesday in the All-Star Game.

While NL hitters did little no matter what side of the plate they batted from — Larry Walker even turned around after Randy Johnson playfully threw a pitch over his head — Alomar's two-run homer in the seventh inning gave the AL the win, ending its three-game losing streak.

"You only get one chance to play before your hometown crowd in an All-Star game," Alomar said. "I don't know how to explain it. Everything I see looks like a beach ball."

Alomar, who took a 30-game hitting streak into the All-Star break, made the most of his only at-bat with a two-out drive against San Francisco's Shawn Estes and earned the MVP award.

Before Alomar's home run, Indians catchers were known for only one thing in All-Star play. It was 1970 when Ray Fosse was bowled over by Cincinnati's Pete Rose for the winning run in the 12th inning.

The AL cut its deficit in the series to 40-27-1.

Kansas City's Jose Rosado wound up the winner despite giving up a tying, solo home run to Javy Lopez in the seventh. Mariano Rivera of the New York Yankees pitched a perfect ninth, finishing a combined three-hitter for eight AL pitchers.

Edgar Martinez homered in the second inning for the AL as home runs accounted for all of the scoring.

Alomar and his brother, All-Star second baseman Roberto, pinned black ribbons to each other's jersey sleeve in memory of their grandmother, Toney Valazquez, who died last week at age 96. She was buried in Puerto Rico on Monday.

"I know my grandmother is in a better place," Sandy Alomar said. "This game was dedicated to her. The rest of the season will be dedicated to her."

The fans booed Albert Belle when he was introduced in his first return since the Chicago White Sox visited in June, an appearance that prompted the former Cleveland star to make an obscene gesture at his former rooters. He did not play.

"He said he'd be uncomfortable playing," AL manager Joe Torre said.

Walker, who leads the majors in batting at .398 and the NL with 25 homers, made his lefty vs. lefty matchup with Johnson, baseball's



HOMEWARD BOUND — American League third base coach Willie Randolph of the New York Yankees celebrates with Indians' Sandy Alomar, who belted a 2-run HR in the 7th inning to give the AL a 3-1 win over the National League in the All-Star Game. (Reuters)

most overpowering pitcher.

Johnson threw the first pitch far over Walker's head and hit the backstop on the fly. Walker, laughing, turned his helmet around, moved to the other batter's box and took a pitch for a ball right-handed.

Walker then went back to batting left-handed, and drew a walk. "He had fun with it, and so did I, and I think the fans did, too," Johnson said. "It was kind of humid out there. The ball just slipped out of my hand."

"It was a fun at-bat. It all worked out. I'm just glad it's over," Walker said. "He and I have been great friends for years."

Lopez, one of seven Atlanta players on the NL team, opened the seventh with a drive off the left-field foul pole that tied it at 1.

The shot off Rosado made Lopez the 11th player to homer in his first All-Star bat, and the first since Jeff Conine in 1995.

Lopez also continued the recent trend of power provided by NL catchers — Mike Piazza won the MVP award in last summer's game with a home run and double.

Before Lopez connected, NL hitters had been held to just one hit, a single by Jeff Blauser in the third off Roger Clemens.

National 000 000 100-1 3 0
American 010 000 20-3 7 0
G.Maddux, Schilling (3), K.J.Brown (5), P.J.Martinez (6), Estes (7), B.Jones (8) and Piazza, J.Lopez (4), C.Johnson (8); R.Johnson, Clemens (3), Cone (4), J.Lopez (5), Hentgen (6), Rosado (7), R.Myers (8), M.Rivera (9) and J.Rodriguez, S.Alomar (6), W.Rosado, 1-0, L-Estes, 0-1, Sv-M.Rivera (1), H.Rs-National, J.Lopez (1), American, E.Martinez (1), S.Alomar (1).

David Cone, Justin Thompson and Pat Hentgen combined to set down eight straight batters before Lopez led off against Rosado.

This was the first year that fans elected a designated hitter to the All-Star team, and they made a smart choice in Martinez.

Martinez, batting .342 with 16 home runs for Seattle, led off the second with a drive off Greg Maddux that landed among the fans standing above the 19-foot wall in left field.

Tyson banned, fined \$3 million

LAS VEGAS (Reuters) — Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson was banned from boxing and fined \$3 million yesterday for biting opponent Evander Holyfield's ears during a fight last month that shocked fans around the world.

Tyson was not present when the five-member Nevada State Athletic Commission voted unanimously to impose the maximum punishment and revoke his license to box in the state, effectively banning him from boxing in the US.

The 31-year-old boxer, who once dominated the sport, can apply for reinstatement in one year but if his application for a new license is denied he must wait another year to try again.

The revocation could constitute a lifetime ban.

In the June 28 title bout, Tyson twice bit champion Holyfield's ears, taking off a portion of his top right ear in the third round before he was disqualified. Tyson at first



Mike Tyson (Reuters)

claimed he was retaliating for being cut by a head butt, but later apologized and admitted he'd "snapped."

Nevada Deputy Attorney General Gordon Fink was in no mood to accept an apology and told the commission: "The events

of June 28 demand the maximum penalty ... suspension is a mere interruption."

Holyfield's lawyer, Jim Thomas, said that while the champion accepted Tyson's personal apology, "The eyes of the world are on this commission. No boxer is bigger than the sport of boxing."

Tyson's lawyers appealed for leniency, asking the commission to not be swayed by a public outcry that was demanding the boxer's banishment.

The commission heard the arguments and with hardly any discussion voted to revoke his license and fine him 10 percent of his \$30m purse.

Under new federal laws, a suspension in Nevada effectively bars Tyson from fighting anywhere in the US.

The law does not force other states to honor a Nevada ban, but those states would have to justify in writing a decision allowing him to fight.

15th MACCABIAH

Broadway magic

Joshua Avshalomov has come to the aid of the 15th Maccabiah.

Having heard that the Polish and Bulgarian delegations were financially strapped and in danger of having to cancel their participation in the 15th Games, which begins on July 14,

Avshalomov, who owns Broadway Sneakers in New York, donated \$5,000 to the cause. Now the 5-strong Polish delegation and the 10 Bulgarian competitors will appear, wearing "Broadway Sneakers" t-shirts.

Carlos in goal
Galo Carlos, who played alongside Zico, Socrates and Roberto Falcão, superstars of Brazil's 1982 World Cup side, will arrive here tomorrow to take part in the Maccabiah celebrations.

Carlos will coach the Brazilian soccer team which is taking part in the Games.

The goalkeeping veteran, 41, is still interested in playing and has expressed a wish to try and find a team here which may need in his services.

Event-fal
The festivities and celebration of the 15th Maccabiah, July 14-24, do not belong exclusively to the athletes.

Besides the sold-out opening ceremony at the Ramat Gan stadium including a spectacular multimedia presentation, the public is invited to attend special functions as well as the sports events.

Tickets are still available for the gala musical evening on July 13 at the Tel Aviv Center for Performing Arts where US gold medalist gymnast Kerri Strug will be making her first public appearance in Israel.

A salute to the Maccabiah guests will be held on July 13 at Jerusalem's outdoor Sultan's Pool with the IDF Choir and Batsheva Dance Group, among others. MK Moshe Katsav and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert will deliver speeches.

The closing ceremony, the culmination of four years planning and 10 days of frenetic activity, will take place at Latrun in a ceremony which will inaugurate Israel's 50th birthday celebrations.

Tickets to each of the above events cost NIS 260.

For sports lovers, tickets to individual events cost NIS 20 while an all-sport event ticket at NIS 105 covers entry to all events.

Tickets can be bought at the Kfar Maccabiah ticket office (03-6715932), official ticket agencies or at the sports venues.

Post Sports Staff

Israeli clubs take on minnows of Europe

By DEREK FATTAL

The Geneva Hilton was the focus for millions of soccer fans across the European continent yesterday afternoon. The prestigious hotel hosted the draw for the preliminary rounds of the three top continental club competitions.

A record 188 clubs from 48 countries and territories will be competing for Euro-honors this season.

Israel's three representatives in the new campaigns European club tournaments fared relatively well in the draw.

National League champions
Bnei Yehuda appear to face the sternest task, being pitted against Macedonia's Sileks Kratovo in the Champions' Cup.

In the preliminary round of the Cup Winners' Cup, Hapoel Beersheba play against Zalgiris Vilnius of Lithuania, while in the UEFA Cup preliminary round, Hapoel Petah Tikva entertain Estonia's Flora Tallinn.

Israeli sides have failed to impress on the European stage to date. A succession of bad seasons in the UEFA Cup particularly has led to Israel's quota for the competition being reduced from three at one time to just one contestant this season.

Bnei's opponents, Sileks, raced to an easy league and championship double last season after leading the league by eleven points at the halfway winter break. Macedonia's national side — which includes a number of Sileks players — still reveals its Yugoslavian ancestry.

The country's recent 3-2 World Cup qualifier victory over the Republic of Ireland is further proof that Bnei cannot afford to be complacent when they travel to Kratovo for the first leg match on July 30, with the return match being played at Teddy Stadium on July 30.

Sileks also fields the Macedonian league's two top scorers, Miroslav Drobnik and Vanko Micevski, who each netted 16 goals last season.

The bad news for the Jerusalemites is that if they advance against Sileks they will then go on to face Sporting Lisbon.

Hapoel Beersheba also open their account away from home on July 23 against Zalgiris Vilnius, with the return leg in Israel a week later. Although weakened by the loss of some of their best players, the southerners should have what it takes to proceed to the next preliminary stage.

In addition to having the easiest draw, Hapoel Petah Tikva have the advantage of hosting their opening European match against Flora Tallinn on August 14, almost two weeks after the domestic season opens on August 2.

Kareem on the Square

Former NBA superstar Kareem Abdul-Jabbar will have a commemorative event in the Square, Tel Aviv, on August 2, 1997.

Royals fire Boone

Bob Boone was fired as manager of the Kansas City Royals yesterday, said a replacement by Chicago Cubs hitting coach Tony Muser.

The Royals said hitting instructor Greg Gurnea and first base coach Mitchell Page were also fired. The three are being replaced by former Royals' All-Star second baseman Frank White and Tom Pohjanpelto, another former Kansas City player.

CLASSIFIEDS

RATES

PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS — All rates include VAT:
Single Weekday — NIS 134.65 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 13.45
FRIDAY AND HOLIDAY EVE — NIS 210.60 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 21.06
TWO FRIDAYS — NIS 351 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 35.10
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY (package) — NIS 304.20 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word — NIS 30.42
WEEK RATE (6 insertions) — NIS 432.90 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word — NIS 43.29
FOUR FRIDAYS (package) — NIS 555.75 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word — NIS 55.57
MONTHLY (24 insertions) — NIS 1053 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word — NIS 105.30
Rates are valid until AUG 31 1997.

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Jerusalem — weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday 4 p.m. on Thursday.
Tel Aviv and Haifa — weekdays: 12 noon, 2 days before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.

For telephone enquiries please call 02-5315644.

DWELLINGS

General

WHERE TO STAY

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DWELLINGS

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DWELLINGS

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Tel Aviv

GENERAL

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Another fall mars Tour stage

PLUMELEC (AP) — Tony Rominger was prophetic. "There will be some more crashes on this Tour. That was not the last mass crash," Swiss Rominger said Sunday after a group crash in the first of the Tour de France's stages. "The way they send us over such narrow roads here is a scandal."

Yesterday's fourth stage was marked by another fall and brought up the role of safety on the roads. This time not only a rider was injured but also a spectator.

Injured was Fabio Fontanelli who had a crushed chest and internal hemorrhaging. He was forced to abandon the race.

The fourth stage from Plumelec to Le Puy du Fou, 223 kilometers (138.6 miles) was won by Italian Nicolas Minali barely in front of Frenchman Frederic Moncassin.

Third was Erik Zabel of Germany, Tuesday's stage winner and fourth was Mario Cipollini, the overall leader and winner of the first two stages.

Rominger was a victim of the second big crash which happened in Tuesday's third stage.

A group fall with about nine km (5.6m) left put Rominger out of the race with a broken collarbone. He had to drop out of the race and will be operated on in Paris.

Rominger said the only thing he remembers from Tuesday's fall was that "I was drinking something and saw people begin to sway and to fall on the left side of the road."

"He fell on his head. He had his helmet broken on the right side," said teammate Philippe Gaumont. "Luckily he had it. We saw immediately that he had a broken collarbone and the leg bloody. He told me he couldn't move his shoulder."

Rominger, 36, was one of the top riders in the world in the early 1990s but faded over the last two years. "I'm not happy to say goodbye to the Tour in that way," he said.

He was transferred to Paris overnight then moved to Switzerland where he will be operated on a multiple fracture of the collarbone.

Rominger said that the organizers should pick



Fabio Fontanelli (Reuters)

larger roads but, he admitted, "we all take risks" at the beginning of the Tour.

Zabel gained a little more on Cipollini with his third place finish. He is now within four seconds of the overall lead.

Third was Chris Boardman of Britain, 35 seconds behind.

Zabel, a sprinter for the team Telekom, wore the green jersey, emblematic of the leader for top 10 finishes. He has been fourth, second, first and third in the first four stages.

The first week of the Tour is marked by flat stages, allowing the sprinters to dominate by picking up bonus seconds in fast finishes.

The more demanding racing begins when the Tour hits the Pyrenees on July 14.

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis

The Jerusalem Post
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CRITICS' CHOICE

ENTERTAINMENT

HELEN KAYE

Mike Mainieri and his quartet headline tonight's gigs at the Parliament Arts festival at the Woli Amphitheatre in Hayarkon Park at 9:25 p.m., following their warm-up act, *Esca*. The free shows on the lakeside stage feature drummer Arale Kaminski at 11:30. Saturday is the big one—Isaac Hayes and his band at Woli at 9 p.m.; the free shows feature Tom Regis and Takumi on the lakeside stage at 10:30.

Rock, Love and the Dead Sea is the umbrella title for summer-long entertainment in the Northern Dead Sea area at Kibbutz Mitzpe Shalem. Singer Yehudit Ravitz opens the series tomorrow in the amphitheater at 10:30 p.m. Dancing till dawn afterwards.

VIDEO

HELEN KAYE

The Tel Aviv Cinematheque is celebrating the *Swinging Sixties* with a series of music-video nights. The Pink Floyd concerts are first, from the '60s to the '90s. Three hours of it. Tonight in the big hall at 10.

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Sex, bedrooms, more sex and laughs in another Robin Hawdon farce from the people who brought us *Don't Dress for Dinner* from London. This one's called *The Making Game* and it's about a hotshot TV chat show host who just can't seem to get it together when it comes to getting the Girl. Stars Patrick Kearns and Sadie Nene. On Saturday at the Wix Auditorium, Rehovot, at 9 p.m.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

Zubin Mehta leads the IPO in the Mahler orchestral arrangement of Schubert's *Death and the Maiden*, and the premiere of *Abraham* by Israeli composer Leon Schidlowsky. In between Itzhak Perlman plays the Bruch first violin concerto. Tonight (8:30), Friday (2) and Sunday (8:30) at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv.

Hanna Zur leads her always exhilarating Ramat



Vibraphonist Mike Mainieri headlines the Parliament Arts festival.

Gan Chamber Choir in works by Bartok (Slovakian songs), Janacek (a cantata for harp, organ and choir) and Dvorak (Mass in D, Op. 86), Saturday (9) at the Tel Aviv Museum.

Bassoonist Alexander Fein, flutist Dimitri Kasik and pianist Luba Agranovsky play works by Weber, Saint-Saens, Mendelssohn and Quantz tomorrow (11 a.m.) at Jerusalem's Ticho House.

Duo pianists Bracha Eden and Alexander Tamir play concert for keyboard with the Jerusalem Artists Ensemble and violinist Moti Schmidt, Saturday (11 a.m.) at the Targ Center in Ein Karem, Jerusalem.

Israeli vocal ensemble Musica Eterna, performing Russian choral music, sings music by Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky and other Russian composers, Saturday at the Dormition Abbey (8:30) in Jerusalem.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

For cheap, predictable, slapstick humor, *Itche* is just the thing. This original comedy series stars Jeff Rivlin as an Argentinian middle-class bloke to whom strange things happen in everyday situations. In tonight's episode, at 8:30, the family moves apartments.

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Cartoons
10:00 Eric's World
10:30 My Life as a Dog
11:00 A Matter of Time
11:30 News in English
12:05 A.J., Time Traveller
13:00 Cartoons (rpt)
15:15 Gogo's Adventures with English

CHANNEL 2

15:00 Zappy Wave
15:30 Super Ben
16:00 Heartbreak High
16:45 Super Ben
16:50 Zappy Quiz
16:55 A New Evening
17:34 Zappy Wave
18:00 News flash
19:31 Whoopi
20:00 News
20:45 House of Eliott
21:40 How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love Ark Shanon
22:45 Backdraft
Ehud Manor interview
Kobi Oshrat
23:00 News
00:00 Time for Language

CHANNEL 3

6:15 Today's Programs
8:30 Today - cartoon
9:00 Breakfast Magazine
9:00 Meetings
10:00 Pablo
10:30 The Jungle
10:30 cartoon
10:30 Master League
11:30 Fudge
12:00 Tush Tush
13:00 Pilius
13:30 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
14:00 Degrassi Junior High
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 The Best of Israel
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:00 Rafi Fresh
17:30 Open Cards
18:00 Almost Perfect
18:30 Hudson Street
19:00 Baywatch
20:00 News
20:30 Itche - comedy
21:45 Mermals
(1990) - an unconventional single mother arrives in a small town in England.
With Cher, Bob Hoskins and Winona Ryder
00:00 News
00:05 Sexual Therapy
- a frustrated young man and an unhappy married woman meet through a personals

CHANNEL 4

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel
8:00 Cartoons
10:00 Eric's World
10:30 My Life as a Dog
11:00 A Matter of Time
11:30 News in English
12:05 A.J., Time Traveller
13:00 Cartoons (rpt)
15:15 Gogo's Adventures with English
15:30 Holy Koran
15:35 French programs
16:05 The Curiosity Show
16:30 They Came From Outer Space
17:15 Varieties
18:10 French programs
18:50 News in French
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Parenthood
20:00 World Echo
20:30 Documentary
21:10 Kung Fu
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film
00:00 Tarantula

CHANNEL 5

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel
8:00 Cartoons
10:00 Eric's World
10:30 My Life as a Dog
11:00 A Matter of Time
11:30 News in English
12:05 A.J., Time Traveller
13:00 Cartoons (rpt)
15:15 Gogo's Adventures with English
15:30 Holy Koran
15:35 French programs
16:05 The Curiosity Show
16:30 They Came From Outer Space
17:15 Varieties
18:10 French programs
18:50 News in French
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Parenthood
20:00 World Echo
20:30 Documentary
21:10 Kung Fu
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film
00:00 Tarantula

CHANNEL 6

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel
8:00 Cartoons
10:00 Eric's World
10:30 My Life as a Dog
11:00 A Matter of Time
11:30 News in English
12:05 A.J., Time Traveller
13:00 Cartoons (rpt)
15:15 Gogo's Adventures with English
15:30 Holy Koran
15:35 French programs
16:05 The Curiosity Show
16:30 They Came From Outer Space
17:15 Varieties
18:10 French programs
18:50 News in French
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Parenthood
20:00 World Echo
20:30 Documentary
21:10 Kung Fu
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film
00:00 Tarantula

CHANNEL 7

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel
8:00 Cartoons
10:00 Eric's World
10:30 My Life as a Dog
11:00 A Matter of Time
11:30 News in English
12:05 A.J., Time Traveller
13:00 Cartoons (rpt)
15:15 Gogo's Adventures with English
15:30 Holy Koran
15:35 French programs
16:05 The Curiosity Show
16:30 They Came From Outer Space
17:15 Varieties
18:10 French programs
18:50 News in French
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Parenthood
20:00 World Echo
20:30 Documentary
21:10 Kung Fu
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film
00:00 Tarantula

CHANNEL 8

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel
8:00 Cartoons
10:00 Eric's World
10:30 My Life as a Dog
11:00 A Matter of Time
11:30 News in English
12:05 A.J., Time Traveller
13:00 Cartoons (rpt)
15:15 Gogo's Adventures with English
15:30 Holy Koran
15:35 French programs
16:05 The Curiosity Show
16:30 They Came From Outer Space
17:15 Varieties
18:10 French programs
18:50 News in French
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Parenthood
20:00 World Echo
20:30 Documentary
21:10 Kung Fu
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film
00:00 Tarantula

CHANNEL 9

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel
8:00 Cartoons
10:00 Eric's World
10:30 My Life as a Dog
11:00 A Matter of Time
11:30 News in English
12:05 A.J., Time Traveller
13:00 Cartoons (rpt)
15:15 Gogo's Adventures with English
15:30 Holy Koran
15:35 French programs
16:05 The Curiosity Show
16:30 They Came From Outer Space
17:15 Varieties
18:10 French programs
18:50 News in French
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Parenthood
20:00 World Echo
20:30 Documentary
21:10 Kung Fu
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film
00:00 Tarantula

JORDAN TV

15:30 Holy Koran
15:35 French programs
16:05 The Curiosity Show
16:30 They Came From Outer Space
17:15 Varieties
18:10 French programs
18:50 News in French
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Parenthood
20:00 World Echo
20:30 Documentary
21:10 Kung Fu
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film
00:00 Tarantula

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 TV Shop
14:30 The 700 Club
15:00 Gerben
15:30 Urban Peasant
16:00 Larry King
17:00 Family Challenge
17:45 Beckman's World
18:10 Perfect Strangers
18:30 Saved by the Bell
18:50 Showbiz
19:30 World News Tonight
20:00 CNN News
20:30 The West
21:30 Two Fingers
22:00 Redant City
22:30 Carnal Comedy Club
23:30 The 700 Club
00:00 Quantum Shopping

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

16:30 The World of Art
17:30 Panorama
18:00 Sea of Thoughts
18:00 News in Arabic
18:30 Doctors Talk
20:00 News
20:45 Telekessel
21:15 The First Circle
22:00 Urban Angel
22:30 International Cultural News

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Burned Bridge
16:30 Last Science (rpt)
17:10 A.J., Time Traveller (rpt)
18:00 Desires
18:30 Art Workshop
19:00 World War I
19:30 A to Z
19:50 Hello Prina
20:00 A New Evening
20:30 Family Album
21:00 The Ocean Line
21:50 Montreal Jazz Festival 1996
22:50 I, Claudius (pt. 7)

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pine (rpt)
7:30 Love Story (rpt)
8:00 Dances with Wolves
8:30 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Zingara (rpt)
12:00 Barnaby Jones
12:45 The Streets of San Francisco
14:00 Dallas
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:40 Xena, Warrior Princess

SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Dust (1995) - a lonely woman living on a remote South African ranch murders her father after he seduces his black servant's wife
22:35 Five Last Days (German, 1982) - two women come together in a Nazi prison cell or in a Nazi prison cell

EUROSPORT

6:30 Europe A La Carte
6:30 The Ticket (rpt)
7:30 News Night
7:30 NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw
8:00 MSNBC News
9:00 Today
10:00 European Squawk Box
11:00 European Money Wheel
11:00 CBS US Sports
11:00 Gardening By the Yard
11:30 The Site
12:00 National

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10:00 European Squawk Box
11:00 European Money Wheel
11:00 CBS US Sports
11:00 Gardening By the Yard
11:30 The Site
12:00 National

PRIME TIME TV

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18:30 News flash Whoopi!	News	Sunset Beach	Lapidankner	Radiant City	Animanlacs Married with Children	Wild Film	On the Road Again
20:00 News	Itche	The Commish	Roseanne	Sex, On Screen	The Cosby Show	House of Culture	Mail on Pissoso
21:00 House of Eliott	How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love Ark Shanon	Mermals	Renegade	The Stars Fall on Henrietta	Different World	House of Culture	Mail on Pissoso
22:00 Backtrack							
23:00							

12:00 Tennis
18:00 Tour de France
18:15 Touring Car
18:15 Tractor Pulling
20:15 Sumo
21:00 Asien Soccer
22:00 Bowling
23:00 Tour de France
00:00 Miss Fitness USA
1:00 Sailing Magazine
1:30 NBC News with Tom Brokaw

12:00 Tennis
18:00 Tour de France
18:15 Touring Car
18:15 Tractor Pulling
20:15 Sumo
21:00 Asien Soccer
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22:00 Bowling
23:00 Tour de France
00:00 Miss Fitness USA
1:00 Sailing Magazine
1:30 NBC News with Tom Brokaw

MOVIES

Speed 2 4:30, 7:30, 9:30 - Return of the Jedi
A.J. 4:45, 7:45, 9:45 - High School High
A.J. 5:15, 8:15, 11:15 - The English Patient
A.J. 5:45, 8:45, 11:45 - The English Patient
A.J. 6:15, 9:15, 12:15 - The English Patient
A.J. 6:45, 9:45, 12:45 - The English Patient
A.J. 7:15, 10:15, 13:15 - The English Patient
A.J. 7:45, 10:45, 13:45 - The English Patient
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A.J. 29:45, 32:45, 35:45 - The English Patient
A.J. 30:15, 33:15, 36:15 - The English Patient
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Supreme Court acquits Abeid of Kikos murder, upholds rape charge

By BAYSHEVA TSUR

The Supreme Court, by a majority vote, yesterday overturned the conviction of Suleiman Abeid for the 1993 murder of Henit Kikos but upheld his conviction for raping the teenager.

This left open the question of who actually murdered Kikos, whose remains were found only in June 1995. Abeid, who was present in the courtroom, is currently serving a life term for murder.

The three-man bench was divided: Deputy Court President Shlomo Levin found Abeid guilty of the rape and the murder, Justice Eliezer Goldberg ruled that Abeid was innocent on both counts, saying there was insufficient evidence to convict him; while Justice Ya'acov Kedmi ruled he was guilty of rape but noted that the body had been found in a different place from that which the accused indicated and therefore he had not committed the murder.

The court ordered the case returned to the Beersheba District Court, which originally tried Abeid, for the handing down of the sentence on the rape charge.

Seventeen-year-old Kikos went missing in June 1993, while hitchhiking from her Ofakim home, to Beersheba, where she planned to attend her boyfriend's birthday party.

After weeks of searching failed to reveal her whereabouts, police were given a tipoff that Abeid, who

worked at the Dudaim garbage dump in Beersheba, was the murderer. He confessed to both charges, saying that the rape and murder had taken place at Dudaim. He later retracted his confession.

He was convicted on both counts in November 1994.

Repeated searches at Dudaim, however, failed to reveal traces of the body. Only in June 1995 were Kikos's remains uncovered - in a residential neighborhood of Beersheba.

In September 1995, the Supreme Court ordered that Abeid be tried again, because her remains were not found in the place where Abeid had said he hid the body.

In February 1996, the Beersheba District Court once again convicted Abeid for the murder and rape of Kikos. Abeid again appealed the decision.

"There were no reason to charge my father, no reason... It's clear that the same person who murdered Henit first raped her. You can't divide the charges between two people," Abeid's daughter, Man'el, told Educational TV.

"This is an unacceptable situation; the court was simply not able to come out unequivocally and say that an innocent man had been convicted," lawyer Avigdor Feldman, who represented the appellant, said after the ruling.

"How can the court say that one person raped Henit Kikos and dumped her in one place and then someone else came by and mur-



Suleiman Abeid awaits the outcome of his appeal at the Supreme Court in Jerusalem yesterday.

(Brian Hender)

dered her somewhere else? That is an imaginary situation and Justice Kedmi has made a mistake."

He said Abeid had succumbed to

pressure to admit to carrying out the crime since he "has a low IQ."

Feldman added he would lodge another appeal with the Supreme

Court with regard to the charges of rape against his client.

Rafi Kikos, Henit's father, expressed astonishment at the

decision yesterday, telling Israel Radio it was unfathomable that Abeid could have raped his daughter but not killed her.

Driver of Dizengoff Center suicide bomber gets 30 years

The Nazareth District Court yesterday sentenced Said bin Hussein Suleimani to 30 years imprisonment for driving the Dizengoff Center suicide bomber from Gaza to downtown Tel Aviv on March 4 last year.

Suleimani, 46, from the village of Manshiya Zedda in the Jezreel Valley, smuggled Ramez bin Kader Mohammed Abed in his truck to the shopping center, where the terrorist blew himself up, killing 13 and wounding 113.

Suleimani was convicted on all charges, including being an accessory to murder, an accessory to a terrorist act, and entering Israel illegally.

Suleimani claimed that although he did smuggle the Abed into Israel, he thought he was a student at Bir Zeit University and did not know he was a terrorist.

But Justices Yehuda Abramovich, Gideon Ginat and Mordechai Hass stated that the accused, who makes a

living from transporting scrap, between Gaza and Israel, should have been alerted to trouble by several factors.

They noted that when the terrorist arrived at the truck, the accused lifted his bag and commented on its weight, about 12 kg. He was paid a large amount of money - \$1,100 - for the smuggling service, they added. Moreover, the terrorist asked him to alter his route to Tel Aviv instead of Bir Zeit.

The judges said these and other factors "indicate the accused knew he was smuggling in a terrorist into crowded, lively Tel Aviv to commit an act of terror."

Suleimani told reporters, "I am innocent. I made a mistake in taking that person. I thought he was a student."

His lawyer said he would appeal the conviction to the Supreme Court.

(Itim)

No funding for Judea and Samaria road repairs since '95

70% of accidents caused by road conditions

By DAVID HARRIS

The condition of roads in Judea and Samaria is putting lives at risk, according to Public Works Department (PWD) director Ben-Zion Salzman, who yesterday told the Knesset Economics Committee there has been no funding for repairs in two years.

As a result of the discussion, committee chairman Elie Goldschmidt (Labor) demanded the new finance minister and prime minister immediately transfer NIS 80 million from budgetary reserves for repair work and agree on an annual budget for road works.

"This is not about politics; Jews and Palestinians are all at risk," said Goldschmidt. "We can't wait until 1998 [for funding]."

Some 70 percent of all road traffic accidents in the areas are because of the road conditions, said Transport Ministry representative Nahum Gabbai. Last year, there were 483 accidents in Judea and Samaria, 38 causing fatalities, 117 serious injuries and the remainder light injuries.

"There are very serious problems," said Gabbai.

Since 1967, the Civilian Administration had been responsible for the management of the 1,500 kilometers of roads in the territories. However, in September 1995, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin transferred the responsibility for repairs to the PWD, with the administration still in overall charge of road management.

Since then, no funding has been transferred to the PWD, and

consequently the roads have not been maintained other than in emergency circumstances. In order to do this the PWD has removed NIS 1.5m. from its budget for a three-month period.

It would take a minimum NIS 50m. to carry out the most urgent repairs, according to Salzman, and a further NIS 30m. to bring the roads up to a reasonable standard.

"If the work is not done now, it will be far more expensive in the future," said Salzman.

Zvi Hendel (NRP) demanded full responsibility be transferred to the PWD. "At the moment no one is responsible for the roads," he said. The blame lies with the Treasury, which has failed to pass on funds, according to Abdul Malik Dahamshe (United Arab List).

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's first Chance draw were the king of spades, ace of hearts, eight of diamonds and 10 of clubs.

The results of the second draw were the seven of spades, eight of hearts, ace of diamonds and eight of spades.

Bezek denies cheating and tricking callers

By JUDY SIEGEL

Bezeq International (BI) yesterday expressed "shock" over Communications Ministry charges that the company had "cheated and tricked" callers by continuing to charge high overseas rates for those who hadn't "pre-registered."

The ministry, however, continued to criticize BI's behavior, saying it was investigating ways of taking action against the former monopoly. It was also looking into the possibility of requiring Bezeq International to return money charged "under false pretenses," although it conceded that this would be difficult.

Unlike its new competitors, Bezeq and Golden Lines, BI was discovered to be still charging high rates for calls placed by dialing 00 or 014. Only those customers who had made a one-time call to Bezeq's 188 or BI's toll-free number 177-022-1300, giving their name and identity-card number, enjoy the cheaper rates.

Bezeq International claims it explained this in its ads, but the ministry disputes this, saying this concession was "never made clear and violated the law."

The company says it established the registration procedure "with the ministry's knowledge in advance to produce a database of clients for our information," and to "simplify billing, which will be done not according to phone number, of which there may be several, but rather by family name and identity card number."

The telecommunications company insists that callers need not commit themselves to become long-term subscribers in order to enjoy the reduced rates.

Ministry spokeswoman Ayala Bar said it was objectionable that BI uses 188 - the overseas phone operator number run by its mother company Bezeq - to collect information on potential customers.

Foreign Ministry fights 'blood libel'

By LIAT COLLINS

The Foreign Ministry is fighting Arab lies about Israel by bringing them to the attention of the international community, Foreign Minister David Levy told the Knesset plenum last week. He was answering a parliamentary question by MK Benny Elon (Moladet), based on a report in *The Jerusalem Post*.

The March 17 news item noted that the Palestinian Authority's Nabil Ramlawi, at a UN human rights convention in Geneva, accused Israel of having "infected by injection 300 Palestinian children with the HIV virus during the years of the intifada." The same charge appeared in January in the Egyptian daily *Al-Ahram*, although it was later retract-



Foreign Minister David Levy.

(Brian Hender)

"Unfortunately, certain elements continue to exploit this false propaganda," said Levy.

He said the Israeli representative at the human rights commission, Yosef Lamdan, had vehemently denied and condemned the charges at the time. Levy also noted that the UN secretary general publicly dissociated himself from the statements and called Ramlawi to order.

"We all know the blood libel here is senseless, but it must be answered to," said Levy. "We are on guard everywhere, and there is sometimes a struggle against the distortions and even blood libels like this which we bring to the attention of the international authorities. We won't give up."

Researchers warn against changing status quo on Temple Mount

The government is coming under growing pressure from rabbis to allow Jews to pray on the Temple Mount, but giving in to such demands could trigger violence and a long-term Mideast crisis, a think tank said yesterday.

"The Temple Mount is the most important, most problematic and most dangerous factor in the national-religious conflict between the Jews and Moslems and the Israelis and the Palestinians," Ilirach Zilberman, a researcher at the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, told a news conference yesterday.

"The fear of losing Israeli sovereignty over the Temple Mount as a result of an agreement between Israel, Jordan

and the Palestinians is leading to political pressures to allow Jews to pray on the Temple Mount," said Amnon Ramon of the Jerusalem Institute.

Ramon said 93 percent of Israelis think the Temple Mount is important, 86 percent want to be able to worship there and 70 percent oppose formalizing the Islamic Trust's status at the site.

In a recent ruling, 60 rabbis affiliated with Jewish settlers said Jews should visit the Temple Mount. The decision is in contrast to rulings by the chief rabbis who have said Jews should not enter the Temple Mount for fear they might inadvertently desecrate a holy area limited to those

who are ritually pure. Zilberman urged the Israeli government to stem any attempts to change the status quo.

"A violent confrontation on the Temple Mount will certainly spill over into all Israeli-Palestinian relations and create a deep and long-term crisis," Zilberman said. Even perceived changes in the religiously charged compound have previously led to violence.

Zilberman said Israel should step up cooperation with the Palestinians and the Moslem world and reinforce security to prevent fanatics from either side from carrying out acts that could inflame the situation. (AP)

Boy killed when ATV overturns

A 12-year-old boy was killed yesterday when the ATV he was riding with his cousin overturned. Shai Kashani, 12, was driving the family's recreation vehicle in the fields near his home at Moshav Shaka, near Kiryat Gat, with his cousin, also 12. Police said the boys were riding at high speed when the accident occurred and attempts by Magen David Adom paramedics to resuscitate Shai failed. His cousin was injured lightly.

A relative said that the children on the ATV had been warned repeatedly to be careful when riding the ATVs. "We knew it would end in disaster some time, and now it has." (Itim)



GENERALI
Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A.

NOTICE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLICY INFORMATION CENTER

Notice is hereby given that Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A. has established an Information Center to provide information on policies issued by Generali Branches in Central and East European countries to, or in favor of persons who perished in the Holocaust, to the extent that such information is available to Generali in its archive in Trieste.

It should be noted that the information available to Generali relates to policies issued by Generali branches in the respective countries sixty, seventy years ago and more. Generali holds, in its Head Office in Trieste, the first pages only of those policies, which were sent to it by the branches upon the issue of the policies. Generali does not have any information as to the status of the insurance coverages under those policies during the period following the issue thereof since all policies and all records relating thereto were kept in the branches, of which Generali was ousted immediately after World War II.

The information in Generali's archive is unindexed and Generali is not in a position to determine that the first pages which it does have in Trieste exhaustively reflect all policies issued by its branches in Central and East European countries before World War II.

To facilitate a search for names and information available in Trieste, Generali is in the process of computerizing the data available to it in Trieste.

Information request forms will be ready for distribution as of July 15, 1997. Requests for such forms should be addressed to the Generali Policy Information Center, at one of the following addresses:

Generali Policy Information Center
Segreteria Centrale
Piazza Duca degli Abruzzi 2
Trieste 34132, Italy
Fax No. 0039-40-671006

Generali Policy Information Center
P.O. Box 20310
Tel-Aviv 61202, Israel

Additional addresses for the United States and Europe will be published in a few days.

The computerization of data in Generali's archive in Trieste may take several months, and Generali will respond to inquiries as soon as possible.

Please note that since the expropriation of its properties and branches in East and Central Europe after World War II, Generali is not obligated under the policies issued in those countries. The policies and the assets related to them were all subject to the local laws. The policies and the reserves underlying them became the responsibility of the states or state-owned entities that took them over.

Generali is setting up a fund in the amount of US\$ 12,000,000, to be applied over a period of twelve years, inter alia, for ex gratia payments to beneficiaries under such policies, and their legal successors, in accordance with priorities and criteria to be determined by a Committee - headed by a retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel - to be appointed by the Chairmen of the Finance Committee, the Insurance sub-Committee, the Committee for the Restitution of Jewish Property, of the Knesset and Migdal Insurance Company Ltd. The procedures for applications to the Committee will be published by the Committee, once it begins functioning.

The setting up of the information Center and the establishment of the Fund should not be taken as a recognition by Generali of an obligation to pay any amounts under policies issued by its Branches in Central and Eastern Europe before World War II.